

---

**Minutes of Branch Committee Meeting:  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2012  
Stanford Hall, nr Lutterworth, Leicestershire**

**Attendance:** Ramona Usher, Stephen Bradwell, Jane Roylance, Mark Strawbridge, Rachel Booth, Chris McKinney, Rose Thompson, Roy Lewis, Philip Grover & Robert Walker

1. **Apologies:** Claire Searson, Beryl Lott, Liz Mayle, Fiona Newton, Sara Crofts, Chloe Oswald, Elizabeth Bryan, Neil Robertson, Michael Knapton, Jason Mordan & Julie-Ann Middleditch
2. **Minutes:** Minutes from the previous meeting were approved subject to a query regarding references to Historic Property Owners Club (Item 5) and Nottinghamshire County Reps Report (Item 6) – this should make reference to Peter Smith's retirement.
3. **Chairs Report:** Jane noted that there were five new Branch Members – one upgrade to Full Membership and four new Affiliate Members.

**[Action: Stephen to supply contact e-mail addresses to Jane.  
Jane to send formal welcome letters.]**

4. **Treasurers Report:** Rose reported that she had now received £650 from the IHBC and therefore the current account was now £980.74, with £189.87 in the deposit account.

An early-bird booking had been made for the Annual School Bursary Place although the money from the Buxton Annual School surplus had not yet been received.

5. **Branch Representatives Report:** Roy's notes from the last full Council meeting were attached to the agenda.

In addition Roy noted that in future the IHBC Yearbook would distinguish between membership grades. There had been much discussion about the Penfold Review whereby new proposals, not previously consulted on, would go out for consultation in the summer. One of the main issues was the suggestion for accredited consultants to deal with listed building consent to mirror the building inspectors regime, but there was concern that the LBC process was not simply governed by a series of regulations but was a more political process, there was therefore a view that decisions should be referred to the relevant Planning Committee.

It was generally thought that the published NPPF was better than the draft version, although Budget proposals to change the VAT regime were opposed by the IHBC and the potential impact of these changes was noted by the Branch Committee, in particular impacting on works to buildings at risk.

Roy also drew attention to the forthcoming Green Deal, and the potential impact of energy saving measures on historic buildings, especially the use external insulation cladding.

6. **Membership Report:** Mark reported that no new applications had been received.

Jane agreed to prepare a draft letter to encourage Affiliate Members to upgrade to Full membership. Rob noted that whilst there was a number of Affiliate Members who met the basic competencies for full membership many were reluctant to apply, some reporting that they had been deterred from applying for full membership as they found the form/process a bit daunting and time consuming or were not sufficiently confident that even with considerable experience in conservation that they would meet the areas of competence.

**[Action: Jane to prepare draft letters.]**

## 7. **County Representatives Reports**

*Derbyshire:* Chris noted that their last meeting to mark the retirement of Barry Joyce and Alan Morrison had been well received.

*Leicestershire:* Ramona noted that there had been no recent meetings.

*Lincolnshire:* Rob noted that the last meeting held in Spalding had discussed the NPPF and reported that the English Heritage was expecting to brief County groups.

*Northamptonshire:* Rachel reported that their last meeting had received a presentation from the Police regarding metal theft and noted the increased security measures for buildings.

The recent Northants Heritage Summit had also met to discuss the NPPF and windfarm proposals.

Rob noted that there seemed to be new initiatives from EH to agree the installation of security measures in Churches where these were properly specified and overseen by the church architect, although the guiding principles had still be to be properly set out and agreed by the LPAs in Lincolnshire.

Rachel commented on the use of wireless systems, that were seen as being more acceptable than traditional wired systems that have a greater impact on historic fabric. Jane also noted that the Nottinghamshire Police were setting up a scheme with local scrap metal dealers although Mark felt that most scrap metal dealers were not so interested in lead and therefore the few dealers must be known to the Police.

Rachel also noted that a suggestion had been made to mark individual lead sheets with an identity code, such as a contact phone number so that any recovered lead could be returned.

*Nottinghamshire:* No report.

8. **IHBC Summer School Bursary:** Jane noted that two applications had been received for the Bursary and that last year the assessment had been carried out by herself, Rob and Stephen.

Rob noted that the current applications had been circulated and after careful consideration of the submissions there was a unanimous decision to support the application from Lisa Walton from North East Derbyshire. The Branch Committee formally agreed to this selection (moved by Chris McKinney and seconded by Ramona Usher).

**[ACTION: Jane to write to both applicants advising them of the outcome.]**

Rob noted that Fiona had informed him that sponsorship opportunities were still available at the Winchester School.

9. **AOB:**

In reviewing the day, Chris thought that the visit to Stanford Hall had been very good and informative but was disappointed to see that no Members had stayed for the Committee meeting. It was agreed that the Committee should try to get some feedback from the other Members about the day and their non-attendance at Committee.

Jane thought this issue could be raised at the AGM with regards to its usefulness and relative costs. Rob pointed out that the continuation of the 'away-day' meeting was very much dependent on Branch finances and in the future they would have to properly budgeted for and included within the Business Plan.

**[ACTION: Jane to write to Anthony and Dave to thank them for the day.]**

Mark raised the issue of professional indemnity insurance and the poor service and high quote offered by the IHBC-recommended insurers and he felt that other firms could offer a better deal. Ramona noted that these insurers had also been slow to deal with her application and Philip also noted that his firm had not been impressed either and had found a better deal with another firm. It was felt that these complaints should be referred to the IHBC and Roy agreed to raise at Council. However Stephen said he had also taken out PII with Lockton's and had no complaints with their service, and the quotes offered by them had been competitively priced against the RTPI's recommended insurers.

Chris noted that the revised web-site had received over 200 hits and this was more than any other Branch page.

**[ACTION: Stephen to add Minutes of Committee meetings to web page.]**

Prior to the close of the meeting Roy circulated a CGI to show the impact of proposed wind turbines on the setting of Stamford Hall.

Meeting closed at 7pm.

10. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May in Newark.

---