
Minutes of IHBC North Branch meeting held on Friday 12th September at Mansion House, Penrith at 2.00 pm

Present : David Lovie, Stewart Ramsdale (Chair), Mike Hein-Hartmann, Geoff Underwood (for part), Graham Darlington, Niall Hammond, Caroline Hardie, Robert White, Peter Messenger, Bridget Turnbull-Brown, Kate Lawson, David James, Richard Majewicz and two other members who did not record their names.

Apologies: Clare Lacy, Ian Goodman and Ken Hutchinson.

(NB: actions to be carried out are in bold text)

O. Welcome: The Chair welcomed everyone, particularly the members present from Cumbria. Special thanks were also given to Graham Darlington and Bridget Turnbull-Brown for organising today's interesting site visit and lunch.

1. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising: The minutes were accepted as a true record and there were no matters arising as all items were covered by the agenda.

2. Treasurer's Report: Branch funds stand at about £500, but some adjustments soon to be made once payments from some local authorities have been sorted out.

3. Branch Representative's Report: The report on the June meeting of the national IHBC Council had been made at a previous Branch Committee meeting. The next Council meeting is to take place on Thursday 26th September in Belfast and Geoff Underwood will report on this meeting at the Branch committee meeting in November. **Geoff U to draft a Branch note to be available in Belfast, for the agreement of the Chair**

4. Membership Report: In Ian Goodman's absence, David Lovie reported that the IHBC Director wished to ensure in future that the approach to membership candidates was the consistent across all branches in order to ensure equity of treatment. To this end, he was putting a report to the next Council meeting proposing a universal mentoring scheme which should ensure equity of treatment but also offer candidates the personal support of members in making their applications.

It was also reported that an example of an exemplary completed application form could be made available to help applicants. **Niall Hammond requested that blank forms and the exemplary forms be sent out to his home address.**

5. CPD: The Chair reported that CPD certificates were no longer applicable as CPD is now the responsibility of each member themselves. However, some members said they were useful reminders of attendance at professional events. **The Chair therefore agreed to send out certificates for today's site visit and meeting.**



General CPD events: Suggestions included a visit to a brickworks and an event on heritage training/skill development, with open invitations to other related professionals. The training/skills event was favoured by Cumbria members and Graham D and Bridget T-B agreed to advance this, possibly for October or November.

Robert Thornily Walker's invitation: This regional conservation engineer has been working at Whitehaven pit-head and is prepared to take members around on a 2 hour tour. It was suggested that it be combined with a visit to the Haig Pit (Caroline H had also do some work there) as well as Helen Brownlie's hosting of a CCOG meeting in Allerdale to make a full day. **Chair and Secretary to follow up.**

6. Business Plan: Now 12 months old and should be reviewed for 2009. Progress has been made on some objectives and names of new officers/committee members need to be added. Possible events for 2009 on both sides of the Pennines also need to be added – details of bi-monthly CCOG meetings and associated events also to be included. More ideas on events and spend needed too.

The continuing unwillingness of EH (North East) to invite COs from Cumbria, should now be addressed by **our Chair writing formally to Humphrey Walfare, Head of the Northern Territory of EH.**

Links with local branches of other professional institutes, eg RIBA, made and attendance at their events explored. Geoff U agreed to contact the IHBC Scottish Branch to exchange events lists, so making more events open to members north and south of the border.

The Chair agreed to draft a revised Branch Business Plan and send it out for comments in time for 2009.

7. Newsletter: Agreed that a Branch Newsletter should be prepared in time for the December Council meeting deadline. **Graham D to send photographs of today's site visit to Ken Hutchinson for inclusion in the Newsletter.** Geoff appealed, on behalf of the newsletter editors (Ken H and Ian McCaffery), for items from all parts of the region, including Cumbria.

8. NE Historic Environment Forum: Geoff U, who is our IHBC representative, described the work of the NEHEF by listing the topics included on the agenda of their meeting on 11th September – grant cut backs in the Northern Rock Foundation – LPA reorganisation in NE with little news yet of how HE will be dealt with particularly with the anticipated lack of resources – in Northumberland CC, Richard Robson (partner of Val, a CO in the region) to have the Place and Culture Portfolio – NE government agencies being scaled down, including cultural agencies – production of the annual NE Heritage Counts report for EH - the forum is seeking to influence the new integrated physical and economic strategy for the region in the light of the up-coming HP Bill – the Forum too is to be reorganised into an annual Board meeting of CEOs only, supported by specialist topic events through the year.

The NW Branch is represented on the NWHEF but, as on so many occasions, Cumbria loses out again as it falls between two stools. **Geoff U agreed to follow up the problem of representation of Cumbria on NWHEF.**

9. Cumbria Representative Report: Graham D reported on the meeting earlier today, covering the following topics – Local Area Agreements – EH business update – concern for the protection of fortified houses because of



development pressures **(NE to add its voice too to a Cumbria request EH for a topic review of descriptions of significance)** – concern also for Cumbrian vernacular building types where the threat is to those that are part of a working farm with pressures to change **(Cumbria group to explore the possibility of a rescue programme funded by HLF).**

10. AOB: Northern Branch has put in a bid to hold the annual IHBC Summer School, possibly in 2012 or 2013. **Geoff U agreed to clarify the date at the next Council in Belfast.**

11. Next Meetings:

5th November – Blackfriars, Newcastle

10th December – Blackfriars, Newcastle (followed by seasonal drinks)

Spring 2009 – Mike H-H agreed to explore a venue and date in Barnard Castle, Durham County, for another NE/Cumbria Committee Meeting.

Any members wishing to attend will be very welcome and any comments on the minutes or any other matter will be gratefully received. Please contact the branch secretary Elaine Hogg, Design and Conservation Officer, Environment, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UQ or email Elaine.hogg@durham.gov.uk

David Lovie
20th October 2008