

IHBC Yorkshire Region

Minutes of Meeting held on 1 December 2008, 7.30 p.m

Venue: Council of British Archaeology Offices, 66 Bootham, York

Present: Keith Knight (KK) (Chair), Ken Burley (KAB), David Blackburn (DB) (Membership Secretary), Richenda Codling (RC) (Education Rep.) Richard Taylor, (RT) David Rhodes (DR), Lynne Walker (LW) (CBA Historic Buildings' Officer).

Action

1.0 **Apologies:** Peter Fisher (PF), Ann Petherick (AP)
Sean O'Reilly, Fiona Newton, Sheila Stones.

2.0 Declaration of Any Other Business

- (1) Rhubarb-Rhubarb (KAB)
- (2) Conservation Structural Engineering (DR)
- (3) National Heritage Training Group (DB)

3.0 Post Meeting supper venue and booking

It was suggested that there should be a post meeting drink.

4.0 Volunteer for Minutes Secretary

KAB offered and was accepted. (Note final copy amended by KK)

5.0 Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising.

5.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2007 – agreed subject to minor amendments and signed by KK.

5.2 under Item 7 – Treasurer's Report, KK pointed out that the bank account could not be operated until the authorised signatories (KK, MW, PF) had completed the bank's procedures. (Treasurer: Mark Womersley MW)

MW

6.0 Chair's Report

6.1 KK reported on a recent IHBC Council Meeting in Belfast was an excellent event involving Northern Ireland Ministers including the First minister. He explained that the Northern Ireland system is very centralised through government rather than local government but there are proposals to change the system.

6.2 KK also reported that he had concerns about the volume of paperwork issued by IHBC at the national level, and Council reps members ability in the absence of financial information to fulfill their onerous legal obligations as Trustees and Directors of the institute. KK to raise with IHBC Director and chair

KK

6.3 KK is both Branch Rep and Chair at the moment but would like to relinquish one or other of these posts because of the heavy workload involved. Over the last three years Peter Thornborrow, Peter Fisher and David Blackburn had substituted for him. Ann Petherick had represented the branch at the recent Branch Connections Meeting in Birmingham. Volunteers sought.

ALL

7 Council of British Archaeology

7.1 Lynne Walker (LW), Historic Buildings' Officer was thanked by the meeting for providing the venue this evening (and delicious cakes!) and was asked to explain

the role of the CBA and its involvement in conservation and heritage. (See Appendix.)

7.2 Membership application form given to LW. Application welcome! LW

8.0 **Secretary's Report**

8.1 It was noted that this post remains vacant and needs to be filled as soon as possible. KAB reported that he had spoken to Tony Robinson, formerly a Conservation Officer at Hambleton and Harrogate, about becoming Secretary and he was considering the matter. KB

8.2 It was suggested that Ann Petherick could also be approached. KK

9.0 **Treasurer's Report**

9.1 In MWs absence it was noted that the Yorkshire Region Bank Account held £2,421.68 available to be spent on branch activities. We do not therefore need to seek additional funds to carry our activities in the next year. KK is to contact MW to confirm that he still wishes to be Treasurer. KK

10.0 **Membership Secretary's Report**

10.1 DB reported that there had been no applications since February 2008 for full membership although total membership, including Associates, has increased from 106 to 115 during the past year.

10.2 RT wondered if the full membership process was too arduous and therefore deterring applicants. KK noted that this is the reason for the introduction of Associate and Affiliate categories.

10.3 DB suggested that he send a welcome letter to the new members and this was agreed. DB

10.4 KK suggested there should be a membership target for inclusion in the Branch Plan. This should include all local authority officers working in conservation and each years intake on conservation courses at the Kings Manor students. DB

11.0 **Education Officer's Report**

11.1 RC attends the Education and Training Committee on behalf of the region and also represents the Education and Training Committee on the Archaeological Training Forum. She therefore attends 8 quarterly meetings on behalf of the region. RC feels that the Archaeologists are further ahead than the IHBC with National Training Standards, probably because Archaeology NVQs are more relevant to their jobs as Archaeologists. KK requested that RC circulate minutes of meetings to the Committee. RC

11.2 DR thought that the NVQ qualification was more appropriate to trades/crafts people and considered it to be a replacement for the former ONC/HNC approach. RC explained the attempts by the IHBC to develop NVQ 4 but this had not been successful and wondered whether the National Training Standard approach might be a better route. KK questioned the relevance of both of these to members.

12.0 **Event Organiser's Report**

12.1 In Peter Fisher's absence it was noted that he had informed IHBC members of 15

events of interest to them, (most of which had been forwarded to him by KK);

- 12.2 DB reported that the Wakefield visit which he had organised was attended by 7 people (out of a maximum of 8 allowed took part).
- 12.3 Apparently the visit to Yorkshire Handmade Bricks attracted only 2 takers. The committee thought that circulating details of an event to members and hoping for a good turnout is optimistic. Members need to be able to book an event, (e.g. by either booking form or simple return of the email to organiser) and if insufficient numbers book the event can then be cancelled. PF
- 12.4 DB suggested DR's approach to events should be taken up by the branch, in other words, two committee meetings per year; one seminar in spring (full day); half day site visit; with possible other events as well. DB offered to arrange the site visit and with DR organising the seminar. PF/DB/DR
- 12.5 KK reported Hilary Byers (HB) our East Yorkshire Rep has expressed an interest in becoming more involved next year (may possibly organise an event e.g. the townscheme in Hull, which she runs (now as a private consultant)). PF/HB
- 13.0 **Consultation Officer**
- 13.1 This post is vacant in the Yorkshire Region. KAB pointed out that James Caird was very efficient in responding to consultations and any regional member could always add to his draft responses and indeed we were encouraged to. DR thought JC's response on nuclear energy was very relevant to the IHBC as there would be very significant implications of a new nuclear power generation. Volunteer to be sought. ALL
- 14.0 **Newsletter Editor**
- 14.1 It was agreed that this was a useful position to fill. Volunteer to be sought ALL
- 15.0 **Heritage Environment Forum**
- RT represents the IHBC on the Forum and considers it to be an opportunity for us to publicise our activities e.g. the Wakefield IHBC trip photos could have been included on the HEF website and/or included in their newsletter. KK asked if the Minutes of the HEF were available and they are but on the website. KK requested RT to circulate the minutes to committee members when he received them. RT
- 16.0 **Branch Business Plan**
- 16.1 Branch Business Plans were useful tools for agreeing actions by the regions and ensuring that they were carried out. Important to agree budget which is why the Treasurer needs to be involved. MW
- 17.0 **AGM**
- Andrew Arrol, IHBC member and Surveyor to York Minster, has accepted KK's invitation to be our guest speaker at the AGM. Dates w/c March 2 or March 9 to be suggested to AA. Venue Kings Manor to be approached. KK
- 18.0 **Any Other Business**
- 18.1 KAB reported on his participation in the recent "Rhubarb-Rhubarb" event organised by Yorkshire RIBA for the development professions around the region. KAB

Ten presenters were given 5 mins to speak to 10 slides about the implications of a low carbon economy for them personally, professionally and regionally. He thought that IHBC should offer to take part in such events.

18.2 Ian Hume, Conservation Structural Engineer, has offered to put on HELM courses for IHBC Regions. PF

18.3 At a recent NHTG event DB, RT and RC had attended.

18.4 Yorkshire Region section of the IHBC website is very limited in its content would benefit from improvement. KB suggested using some of the Region's funds to pay someone to write and install further content. KK pointed out that the technical aspects were not a problem as Peter Badcock is employed by the Institute to do this, but doing copy. KAB

19.0 **Date and Venue of next Meeting**

19.1 19 January 2008, 7.30 p.m. at the CBA offices, 66 Bootham, York.

Appendix to Minutes of IHBC Committee Meeting, held 1 December 2008.

Lynne Walker explained that the CBA is a statutory consultee regarding Listed Buildings and deals with approximately 4,000 applications per year in England and Wales. (The York office provides the service for the entire England and Wales area). LW personally handles 3,800 applications per year and has an assistant who deals with Wales. She also has a team of approximately 60 volunteers and some organisations such as Oxford Historical Society are asked to act on CBA's behalf in their local area. The CBA's focus is on multi-phase buildings (i.e. not restricted to any era such as Georgian, Victorian or 20th Century), vernacular buildings and industrial ones too. The issue is the "architectural integrity of the buildings". Of the 4,000 applications per year, the CBA responds to between 12% and 14% of cases. An example of the CBA's work is the Annesley Head Stocks in Nottinghamshire, which contains very interesting industrial machinery. A real problem for the CBA is the very short turn around period for a response although this does vary from one Local Planning Authority to another. The CBA is now attempting to monitor decisions more but is dependent on Local Planning Authorities informing the CBA of decisions affecting Listed Buildings. Asked if the CBA have sanctions they can apply, LW pointed out that it does not, relying instead on such influence as they have by advising LPAs on appropriate action. With regard to electronic applications, LW said that the CBA receives between 50% and 60% of its consultations electronically, many of which it now has to print off itself as the large size drawings often involved means that a paper copy is essential to understand the proposals. LW and the CBA would appreciate more contact with the IHBC and it was suggested by RT that the former sub-regional meetings of Conservation Officers established under the Association of Conservation Officers would be a better level of engagement. DR advised LW to contact the Local Planning Authority case officer. The CBA is not consulted on proposals affecting scheduled Ancient Monuments although this may change if and when the Heritage Protection Bill is implemented (it was noted that the Bill is not included in the Queen's Speech). LW referred to the Lendal Tower in York as an example of a building that they should have been notified about but were not consulted by English Heritage in this case. RT suggested that there should be a Yorkshire gathering of interested professionals and amenity societies as a way of integrating the many people, and bodies, who are interested in heritage and conservation.