



· INSTITUTE · OF · HISTORIC ·
BUILDING · CONSERVATION

EAST MIDLANDS BRANCH

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Annual General Meeting



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held on Friday, 13th September 2013
at the Heritage Skills Centre, Lincoln Castle**

1. Attendance: the following Members signed the attendance list:

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|------------------|------------------------------|
| Stephen Bradwell | Richard Spooner |
| Roy Lewis | Robert Walker |
| Rose Thompson | David Watt |
| Liz Mayle | Chloe Oswald |
| Fiona Newton | Lisa Walton |
| Liz Blood | Arthur Ward |
| Sara Crofts | Rachel Booth |
| Neil Robertson | Margaret Bennett |
| Kerry Walmsley | Tom Woodcock |
| Chris Collison | Ian Wright |
| Philip Grover | John-Paul Walker |
| Simon Revell | Christopher Mackintosh-Smith |
| Jane Roylance | |

2. Apologies: There were 19 apologies from:

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Beryl Lott | Kim Wyatt |
| Elizabeth Campbell | Graham Cadman |
| John Sharpe | Susan Dobby |
| James Crane | Charles Glenn |
| Chris McKinney | Julie-Ann Middleditch |
| Sean O'Reilly | Jason Mordan |
| Alan Morrison | Elizabeth Bryan |
| Mark Strawbridge | Alf Sharman |
| James Edgar | Eva Long |
| Martin Ticknell | |

3. Minutes from the 2012 AGM

Corrections were made to the attendance list for the 2012 AGM:

Elizabeth Bryan and Rose Thompson had attended the meeting but not been formally recorded and it was also noted that Rachel Booth and Liz Mayle had been recorded twice.

Other than these changes the Minutes were accepted as a true record.

Proposed by Roy Lewis and Seconded by Sara Crofts.

4. Officers' Reports

In addition to the reports printed in the AGM papers, Roy Lewis pointed out that the IHBC membership was maintaining a balance between retirements and the introduction of new members. However, it was important to encourage Affiliate members to move up to full membership and gain the full benefits of professional membership.

Fiona Newton noted that the new application form had been designed to make the process of applying for full membership easier than before.

5. Membership Secretary

In his absence the Branch Membership Secretary, Mark Strawbridge, had submitted a written report. This noted that the Branch had welcomed one new Member & two new Affiliates since the beginning of 2013. The overall number of Members, Affiliates, Students, etc. in the East Midlands now stands at 168, slightly down on the level of 170 last year.

Overall, national membership numbers have been broadly stable, although we are still losing slightly more people than are being recruited at Member level. Jobs in Local Authorities are still being cut nationwide and the East Midlands region continues to be affected, although it is good to note that Rushcliffe Borough Council has decided to recruit a replacement Conservation Officer after quite a long period without one.

The Branch Committee was also sad to report the resignation of Mike Pearson, a founder member of the ACO and a career-long supporter of heritage professionalism; his blend of enthusiasm, ability and knowledge will be greatly missed.

6. Treasurers' Report

Rose Thompson presented the Branch accounts for the previous year, although these had to be finalised after the AGM expenses had been accounted for, and adjusted for some minor corrections. Rose also reported that the Buxton Fund was being used to support the general activities of the Branch as well as for the Annual School bursary and as a result of drawings, the Fund had been reduced from £4,867.10 to £1,867.19 over the past year.

The Branch's main expenses over the past year related to the Branch AGM and the April peripatetic meeting, held this year in Leicester. This was a recent introduction to the Branch's activities that added to the Branch expenses. The AGM therefore had to decide whether the Branch wanted to keep funding these activities and if so they would need to be subsidised from the Buxton funds. However Jane Roylance considered that the Buxton funds should be used to promote the work of the Branch and both the bursary and the 'away day' had been successful and well received.

Rob Walker also suggested that the Branch needed to consider an invitation from the IHBC Council to visit the region, and whether this

could be combined with the next AGM meeting, and the implications of this holding this event for the Branch budget.

Jane thought that the Branch could possibly continue using the Buxton funds for 2 more years, but if the Branch wanted to continue its activities after that, then it would need to consider other sources of funding, including fund raising, or to consider 'leaner' options, reverting to the 'cheap and cheerful' events.

Philip Grover noted that the largest cost was the Bursary, and he asked whether this was giving best value to the Branch, and if we needed to make savings on events then there would have to be trade-off. He also suggested that the bursary offer only partial funding, such as to pay for the Day School but not the travel expenses.

Liz Mayle noted that in the case of next year's Annual School this may be difficult given that it is in Edinburgh; although Fiona noted that the national IHBC bursary did not cover travel expenses.

Jane thought that the Branch would still need to drawdown money in the short-term but this issue needed to be addressed soon.

Rob also agreed that the Branch needed to make some decisions, and while events could be organised to make a profit, the Branch had previously expressed a preference for the 'cheap and cheerful' options. Alternatively the Branch would need to cut back its spending. Rob asked whether the Branch membership would be happy for the Branch Committee to consider these issues.

Jane proposed that the next 'away-day' event could focus on these funding issues, noting that they had already been raised at a Branch meeting.

In view of the Branches finances, Roy Lewis proposed that the Branch should continue to support the bursary for the Edinburgh Annual School, but without the payment of travel expenses.

Rob Walker seconded this motion and the other members were in agreement.

It was however pointed out the bursary should be arranged relatively quickly so that the successful applicant could take advantage of the cheapest travel options.

7. County Representatives

No further comments were made to the published reports, although Jane noted that the Committee meeting should look into fund raising and invited the Committee members to bring forward ideas.

8. Election of Officers

The following nominations were received for Branch Officers:

Chair - Elizabeth Mayle

Vice Chair - Robert Walker

Secretary - Stephen Bradwell

Branch Representative - Roy Lewis

Treasurer - Rose Thompson

Membership Secretary - Neil Robertson

Education Representative - Philip Grover

Communications Officer - Chris McKinney

Proposed by Sara Crofts. Seconded by Chris Collison.

The following nominations were received for General Committee Members:

Fiona Newton

Jane Roylance

Sara Crofts

Proposed by Liz Mayle. Seconded by Rob Walker

The following nominations were received for County Representatives:

Derbyshire - Lisa Walton

Leicestershire - Liz Blood

Lincolnshire - Kerry Walmsley

Northamptonshire - Rachel Booth

Nottinghamshire - Jason Mordan

Proposed by Rob Walker. Seconded by Roy Lewis.

9. Annual School

Jane thanked Liz Blood for her entertaining pre-AGM presentation about the Annual School in Carlisle, and suggested that this be added to the Branch web pages.

10. Any Other Business

Fiona noted that the IHBC Peripatetic meeting had been scheduled for September 2014 and the East Midlands Branch could host this event and perhaps combine it with the Branch AGM.

Rob asked how this meeting would benefit the Branch members and in reply Roy noted that it was useful to promote links between the local Branch membership and the central IHBC and could be used to promote the work of the IHBC locally and encourage people to join.

Fiona also noted that it was useful way of promoting the Branch and raising local issues with the IHBC Council members, and if invited the national body would organise the event. Fiona also noted that if the Branch wanted to run an event to promote heritage training for other professional groups, such as structural engineers, then the Branch could possibly prevail on Council members to speak at that event.

Rob also noted that there was an opportunity to invite other groups of people to the evening's reception to promote the IHBC.

It was also agreed that Rob Walker should attend the next Branch Connection Day on professional discipline on behalf of the Branch.

At the end of the meeting, Liz Mayle, as newly elected chair, thanked everyone for attending the AGM and also thanked Jane for her work and contribution to the Branch during her time as Branch Chair.

The meeting closed at 3:15pm.
