



Minutes of Branch Committee Meeting: Tuesday 16th April 2015 At The Brunswick Inn, Derby

Attendance: Rob Walker, Stephen Bradwell, Rose Thompson, Chris McKinney, Sara Crofts, Ros Willatts, Chris Edwards, Ros Worrall, Neil Robertson and Roy Lewis

Apologies: Liz Mayle, Fiona Newton, Becky Waddington and Jane Roylance

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Ros Worrall noted that her name had been left off the attendance list for the last Branch meeting.

Roy added that he had now heard from Barry Joyce and the residents Court action had been successful in the Bonsall Conservation Area. Roy has now drafted an article for publication; it was found that the Council had not given sufficient weight to the degree of harm to the Conservation Area, planning permission now quashed.

Otherwise agreed as a true record.

2. Chairs Report

In her absence Liz had submitted a written report, thanking all those who had arranged the visit and meeting in Derby. Liz also added that there was an opportunity for a joint meeting with the North West Branch in Buxton that could be combined with our Branch AGM. Rob added that he had already contacted Richard Tuffery at High Peak and he was happy to help out with the arrangements. Although it was noted a potential date in August would clash with school holidays.

Liz also welcomed suggestions for other potential Branch visits if anyone wants to organise an event, noting it was not essential that they be linked to a Branch meeting or a buffet provided.

3. Branch Representatives Report

Roy noted that the business of the IHBC Full Council had been transferred to

the Finance and Resources Committee in order to accommodate the new Council+ initiative, a one year experimental arrangement.

The main item of business was the IHBC Corporate Plan and Member's contributions were invited via the web site.

Roy was also able to report one new full member, John Ruddy, a conservation specialist engineer based in Buxton, and Catherine Banfield and Joanne Jones as affiliates.

It was noted that Liz should be sending the Branch's introductory letter to these new members.

4. Treasurers Report

Rose reported that the Branch's finances were:

Current Account: £1222.39

Reserve Account: £190.14

She had also submitted the half-year accounts, but had not yet claimed the Branch allowance from the IHBC. Also, the Branch had not yet taken advantage of IHBC Annual School early-bird booking.

5. Membership

No further information to add after Roy's report, although Neil had had some further interest for new memberships.

6. County Reps Reports:

Leicestershire: Liz Blood had sent a written report, reporting that the shop front improvement scheme was now underway in Coalville (North West Leicestershire) and the THI in the Cathedral area of Leicester was being launched on 14th May.

Also the Leicestershire Extensive Urban Survey project had been commissioned by English Heritage, with the pilot to begin in North West Leicestershire this May lasting c. 6 months. This was to be followed by surveys of the historic market towns of Leicestershire and Rutland over the next 2 years. The culmination will be a series of reports describing the historic character of each settlement and the contribution this offers to their sense of place/local distinctiveness, with recommendations as to their land use management and the planning process, etc.

Liz also noted that of the two recently advertised Conservation Officer jobs in Leicestershire, neither post had been filled. Roy commented that as many of the last students on the Derby Conservation course had found it difficult to get jobs, it was encouraging to see several jobs being advertised, but equally disappointing to see conservation jobs were not being filled. A worrying trend.

Sarah noted that the Conservation Officer post at North West Leicestershire had attracted only a single applicant with no conservation experience; whereas Leicester City had attracted many applicants.

Lincolnshire: Rob reported that the last meeting of the Conservation officer's group had been to see the recent refurbishment works at Lincoln Castle.

Derbyshire: Becky Waddington had sent a written report reporting that the Derbyshire Conservation Officers had met on 15th April at Cromford.

Robin Holgate, from Archaeological Research Services, had provided an overview of a project to survey Grade II listed buildings in North East Derbyshire, although the project area also included Chesterfield, Bolsover and the northern edge of Derbyshire Dales. The main objective of this scheme was to test the usability of an app, provided by Historic England, for volunteers to record the condition of listed buildings.

Joanne Brooks had confirmed that the funds for Buxton Crescent project had been assembled and the project was now moving ahead.

The next Derbyshire Conservation Officers meeting is to be held in July, and the minutes of the meetings could be viewed on Derbyshire Historic Building Trust's web page.

Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire: no reports were received.

7. Communications Officer

Chris noted that no further progress had been made on the Branch Membership Survey.

Chris also encouraged County reps to send items for the Branch web-site and Bulletin as it was clear from the County reports that quite a lot was happening throughout the Branch area.

Chris also noted that the on-line booking procedure for the Derby Rolls Royce event had worked very well.

8. IHBC Council+

Rob noted that two members (Ros and Liz) had expressed an interest in taking one of the places alongside Roy in representing the Branch as part of the Council+ trial. Rob suggested that it might be useful if they each could take turns at representing the Branch, but as the first meeting was to be held after the Norwich Annual School, it would be sensible to send the member who is attending the Annual School.

Rob proposed that the Branch accept the two nominations with one member attending the Norwich meeting and the other attending the London meeting.

This was agreed by the Committee.

It was also noted that the national bursary scheme was giving priority to Council+ reps.

9. Annual School Bursary

Rose was asked to book early-bird booking and applications for the Bursary would be invited from the Branch members.

10. Buxton AGM

It was agreed that the Branch AGM should be in Buxton as part of the joint meeting with the North West Branch, possibly Friday 4th September, and once the details had been established this information would be circulated to the Branch members.

11. Any Other Business

Rose noted that new arrangements had been published for handling heritage applications replacing the guidance in the old circulars and Historic England had published new good practice advice notes.

Chris Woods expressed his concern about changing the bar for membership requirements.

Chris also mentioned that he had previously worked on the Piece Hall in Halifax and he was happy to arrange a visit to see the recent refurbishment works if that was something the Branch would be interested in.

MEETING CLOSED: 4:50PM

Date of Next Meetings:

FRIDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 2015 – IHBC Branch AGM and joint Branch meeting with the North West Branch - at The Old Hall Hotel, Buxton, with a visit to The Crescent.
