



**Minutes of Branch Committee Meeting:
Tuesday 25 October 2016
At The Organ Grinder, Portland Street, Newark**

Attendance: Rob Walker (Chair), Stephen Bradwell (Secretary), Rose Thompson (Treasurer), Roy Lewis (Branch Rep), Fiona Newton, Ros Worrall, Kelly Appleton-Swaine and Jane Roylance

Apologies: Liz Mayle, Liz Blood, Becky Waddington, Matthew Crook, Jason Mordan & Paul Grundy

Minutes of Last Meeting

Agreed.

Matters Arising

Rob mentioned that the Minutes from the last Branch meeting referred to a number of new IHBC panels and queried whether there were any terms of reference for these panels. Roy noted that the panels were expected to establish their own remit.

Rob then queried whether there had been any discussion about celebrating 50 years of conservation areas.

Roy noted that the IHBC is considering a range of things, and had agreed to allocate £2,000 for funding of different events. Fiona mentioned that this was mainly aimed at civic groups with a prize for the best idea to celebrate conservation areas. The IHBC would also be launching a conservation survey with Historic England to assess people's perception of conservation areas; and other initiatives were being developed with Civic Voice and there would also be a special edition of Context. Civic Voice were also hosting a Parliamentary reception to promote conservation areas.

Roy considered it important to promote conservation-led regeneration projects and their benefits.

Rob therefore queried whether the Branch might want to do something to mark this occasion and wondered whether anything was happening in Stamford as this was the first designated conservation area. Ros noted that this could be a suitable theme for the April Branch meeting.

Robert agreed to write to Ian Wright, as the local conservation officer, to offer the Branch support for any events that they may be promoting, and noted that a Branch event in Stamford in association with other conservation groups could be suitable topic for the Branch AGM in September.

Ros also referred to a Nottingham Heritage Partnership launch in November and the issues associated with conservation areas at risk, such as the Lace Market and Market Square.

Chair's Report & Business Plan

In Liz's absence Rob had no specific items to raise, but he mentioned the success of the recent Branch AGM and wished to thank Kerry and Liz, and others, who had helped to organise the event.

Branch Reps Report

Roy noted that he had had to send his apologies to the September IHBC meeting, but he noted that there were no major items in the Minutes. He pointed out that James Caird had met with the chair of the Landscape Institute with a view to drafting a memorandum of co-operation; that finances of the Institute were sound but membership subscriptions were due to increase, and that there were three trustee vacancies on the IHBC as there were no Branch Reps from the North, East Anglia or the South West.

Fiona said she was not sure what was putting people off from attending when there had been lots of the offers to attend the Council+ meetings, and that it was not necessary for a Branch Rep to be a Trustee as long as there was a quorate of Trustees attending the IHBC meetings.

Rob queried whether the Branch could send a substitute if Roy had to send apologies if anyone else was interested.

Roy also noted that the intake of new members also appeared to be slowing down, with new affiliate members being: Katharina Koukouthai, Carl Mollard and Paul Gajos.

Rob queried whether any progress had been made on a setting up a meeting to help affiliate members in Lincoln upgrade to full membership.

In terms of recent policy development it was noted that Historic England had not yet resolved the curtilage issue, and that the IHBC had asked Charles Mynors for an opinion.

The next Council+ meeting is due to be held on Tuesday, 6 December, which coincides with the next Branch meeting, and there was a possibility for Liz Blood to attend if she wanted to, Ros Worrall was going to co-ordinate.

Treasurer's Report

Rose reported that:

Current account balance: £873.94

Reserve Account balance: £190.32

Rose also confirmed that she had sent off the end of year accounts and was looking to amend the Business Plan following the Branch AGM for issue to the IHBC.

Membership Report

Roy has noted that membership applications appeared to be levelling off compared to some other regions and Ros suggested that this may be due to reductions in conservation officer staff and also there were no private-sector consultancies within the region to boost membership numbers.

County Rep's Reports

Derbyshire – no report

Leicestershire – no report, but next Conservation Officers Forum meeting due for early December.

Lincolnshire – Kelly reported that she had missed the last County group meeting, but noted that South Kesteven was consulting on its local list criteria; that Northeast Lincolnshire had received £1.2 million for repairs to Victoria Mills and the development of a heritage strategy and that the Boston Conservation Area consultation was also underway.

Rob pointed out that the East Midlands Earth Structures Society (EMESS) is teaming up with Lincoln University to design a 21st century mud & stud cottage. To this end the university had produced a number of innovative earth panels to test for insulation and other performance standards.

Historic England may also be organising an event for East Midlands thatchers to promote the use of appropriate materials and techniques.

Northamptonshire – no report

Nottinghamshire – attached to the Agenda

Communications Officer

Chris McKinney was absent from the meeting, but Rob noted that he thought that the website needed a general update.

Role of the Education Officer

Roy queried whether the Branch needed an education officer given the shortage of people coming through, but Fiona pointed out that this was seen as an important role for the Branch and advice on the education officer's role was on the IHBC website in the Branch Roles section, which outlined a number of key tasks for this position.

Ros noted that it might also be worth looking at built environment courses in the area to see whether there were any potential members for the IHBC and also perhaps to try to have some courses, or modules within courses, re-established, as an example the Head of the School of Architecture in Lincoln University was very interested in non-traditional building techniques.

Any Other Business

Following an offer by Paul Grundy, the Committee voted that Paul should be the Leicestershire Branch Representative.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.30pm.
