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BUILDING · CONSERVATION

SOUTH EAST BRANCH

**IHBC South East Branch Committee Meeting
The George and Dragon, Westerham, Kent
Wednesday 23 May 2012.**

MINUTES

Present: Sean Rix (Chairman), Peter Mills, Lone Le Vay, Chezel Bird, Michael Scammell (South Downs NP) and Debbie Maltby

1 Apologies

John Davey, Andrew Norris, David Kincaid, Ollie Chapman and Paul Barker

2 Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed.

3 Matters Arising

Sean Rix reported back that the Council was pleased to have the Branch's response to the governance and constitutional review consultation.

4 2012 Council Meeting

Sean Rix reported that Jo has suggested the event will be largely organised by the national office but acknowledged the offer of assistance from the branch if necessary. The council meeting, evening reception and round table discussion are to be held in Godalming, Surrey.

5 2012 Annual School update

Sean Rix reported that the Weald and Downland Museum has now been confirmed as the venue, with the date of Friday 12th October booked. The only cost for the venue will be catering, as the museum sees the event as a bridge building exercise and an opportunity to promote its resources and courses. All agreed to offer to donate half of any profit for the day to the museum. There will also be a charge for Joe Thompson's talk in the afternoon of £100, which all agreed to. Sean Rix has yet to obtain costs for catering but an approximate delegate cost per head of £45 for members and £50 for non-members was calculated.

The agenda is coming together - there are likely to be four speakers in the morning, and following lunch delegates could be split into two groups for tours led by two speakers from the museum. Nicola Bannister, who carried out the landscape characterisation study for Surrey, will give a talk. All agreed to cover her travelling costs from Kent. Bob Edwards of Forum Heritage has provisionally agreed to give a talk on his work with farmstead characterisation. Debbie Maltby to contact him with the date and venue to confirm.

Duncan McKellar has provisionally agreed to speak about the Kirkford Community Led Plan frontrunner. Lone le Vay to contact him with the date and venue to confirm. Michael Scammell will speak to his colleague about potentially giving a talk on the varied historic landscape within the South Downs National Park and the challenge of analysing and bringing them together. He will also circulate the date and information about the day to the South Downs Forum.

Joe Thompson and Danae Tankard from the museum will give talks and tours in the afternoon.

Andrew has agreed to co-ordinate the bookings for the event. Invites to go to IHBC members first, and then the IFA, and potentially to RTPI, RICS and CARE register members. The first flyer will be sent out in August.

Peter Mills will work on suggestions for the title of the event.

6 Press/publicity/media

An advice pack has been circulated by central office which provides guidance and templates and encourages the use of social networking, and the appointment of a branch press secretary. All agreed to proceed with current publicity arrangements at the present but that if any members are interested in taking on this role they are welcome to put themselves forward to the Chair. Sean Rix will mention this in the next branch newsletter.

7 Forthcoming events

The flyer created by Peter Mills for the tour of Hadlow Tower on the 13th June has been sent out to members, and 11 confirmations have been sent to Peter. The main contractor, Greenwood, will be giving an overview of the project along with a talk from Geoff Pearson, Tonbridge and Malling Conservation Officer. The venue with coffee/tea making facilities will be provided but the branch will need to bring own refreshments.

Sean Rix hasn't yet contacted Envirograph as suggested at the last meeting, but it was suggested that this could be combined with Chezel Bird's idea for a CPD session on a slimline double glazing system, such as Histoglass. This event will follow the AGM.

Sean Rix welcomed any other ideas for a summer event between Hadlow Tower and the AGM - he will, in the meantime, investigate work on renovating a listed pub.

Sean Rix has not yet investigated a tour of the new Jerwood gallery in Hastings, although Lone le Vay noted that the Sussex Conservation Officer Group has organised a visit.

Peter Mills reminded the group that a suggestion had been previously made that each county rep host a social event during the year in their county.

8 AOB

Chezel Bird asked if the committee could have feedback on the outcome of applications for membership that are forwarded to the branch for comment by the Membership Secretary. Sean Rix will forward on this request. He noted that one improvement to the process has been made in that unsuccessful applicants are provided with feedback on where it was felt that had fallen short on competencies. He also suggested that it would be valuable to hold another membership seminar similar to last year's.

Peter Mills will be representing the branch at the South East meeting of the Historic

Environment Forum in Guildford on the 24th. Sean Rix requested that he remind members about the existence of the South East Heritage Skills Forum and mention the recent lost funding for its Co-ordinator. The network has been going for three years now and is a successful forum with wide and varied membership. Despite the lack of central funding, members still each have access to other sources of funding and links with students. Members include the Construction and Built Environment department at Sussex Downs College, Eastbourne (contact is Matthew Glover). The Buckingham University Technical College is planned to open in September 2013 offering construction courses and direct links with industry. IJP Owlsworth are working closely with the college to ensure the courses are relevant for those working on pre-1919 buildings. The Heritage Skills Network email is HeritageSkillsNetwork@gmail.com.

Debbie Maltby reported for information that an internal advice note regarding the approach to thermal efficiency of windows, existing and new, in historic buildings has been produced by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, and the Kent Conservation Officers' Group is considering adopting it county-wide. On a related topic, Sean Rix reported that David McDonald (London Branch Chair) has taken over from John Edwards as the IHBC advisor to the Government on sustainability issues.

9 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 5 September at 7pm in the George and Dragon, Westerham.