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# EAST ANGLIA BRANCH

**IHBC East Anglia Branch**

**Annual General Meeting 2024**

**Minutes of the meeting held on**

### **Thursday 24th October 2024 at 13.30 pm at**

**Roman Catholic Cathedral of St John, Unthank Road, Norwich, NR2 2PA**

**Present:** David Edleston,Kate Knights, Amanda Rix, Eloise Limmer, Karolien Yperman, Chris Partrick, Katie McAndrew, Kayleigh Judson, Neil Hewitt, Prue Smith, Stephen Boniface, Oliver Coulson, Nicholas Jackson, Michael Garber, Chris Betts, Hannah Parks, Jane Forder, Charlotte Dunne, Rowenna Malone, Joe Cushion, Rowan Easter, Liz Warden, Thomas Pierce, Rowland Clasby, Elizabeth Martin, Peter Haye, Emma Sharp, Michael Knights.

The meeting was chaired by Emma Sharp.

1. **Apologies:** Eilíse McGuane, Roger France, Maria Kitts, Bob Kindred, Phil Godwin, Sarah Woodcock, Andrew Murray.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting (18.10.2023):** Approved by the meeting with no amendments or matters arising
3. **Branch Activity Report:** ES outlined the activities of the branch during the year

***Branch Committee***

The Branch Committee met four times in December 2023 (Cambridge), March (virtually), June (Duxford) and September 2024 (virtually). Branch committee meetings for the next year will be set at the 4 December 2024 committee meeting.

The branch was represented at Branch Connection Days, Council, and the Annual School.

***Membership***

Membership: Membership as at 9 October 2024 shows a slight decrease from 2023. Numbers are as follows (last year in brackets):

Total membership is 223 (232), comprising of

* 128 (130) Full members,
* 2 (2) Associates,
* 12 (5) Affiliates and
* 81 (95) Supporters.

There are 2 members with un-paid subscriptions; please keep your contact details are up to date to ensure timely collection of subscriptions and inclusion on information circulation lists. This can be done online or via email at membershipservices@ihbc.org.uk.  If you have any queries about whether or not you have paid, please contact us and we can check for you.

***Finances***

The Branch is in a good financial position with an end of year balance of £2,804.37.

***CPD and Events***

The 2023 AGM and Training Day was held on 19 October at The Maltings in Ely. Dr Charles Mynors delivered the training on 'Listed Buildings and Curtilage', which was highly informative and very useful, with considerable discussion on what can often be a complex subject. We had very positive feedback on the training and the event was well attended.

After the training, a short presentation was given by Mike Brown, IHBC President and Lone Le Vay, IHBC Vice Chair on the Institute's ongoing consultation with IHBC members on proposals to petition for a Royal Charter. It was suggested that if there are any queries about chartership, members should contact Mike Brown at Head Office directly.

The Branch was represented at County Conservation Officers Forums across the region, providing Branch updates to members.

***Newsletter, and social media***

It is hoped a newsletter should be circulated shortly.

Stephen Boniface and Katie McAndrew explained that the Branch now has Instagram and LinkedIn accounts. Please join up and share any good news stories with us so that we can publish them. The accounts are not limited to IHBC members only so please encourage others to join.

***Education***

The branch offers free or subsidised places for students attending IHBC events and members are asked to increase awareness of the IHBC to students as uptake is not always good.

1. **Business Plan and Financial Report:** The Annual Accounts and Business plan were circulated prior to the meeting. Amanda Rix outlined the figures with the end of year balance being £2804.37. Most expenditure has been on costs associated with events and some expenditure from last year’s event is shown in this year’s figures.

There were no questions or comments from attendees and the Financial Report, Business Plan and Annual Accounts were accepted by the meeting.

1. **Branch Representative:** Branch standing orders indicate that the Branch Representative to the National Committee is the only formal post that must be appointed at the AGM. Katie McAndrew has been nominated, with Kate Knights nominating and Stephen Boniface seconding. The nomination was agreed unanimously by the members present.
2. **Election of Committee Members:** We have 11 committee members, all of whom are still within their three-year term.

There is one vacancy on the committee. Thomas Pierce was proposed by David Edleston and seconded by Amanda Rix.

1. **Any other business:** Michael Knights stated that EARTHA – the East Anglian Earth Building Group are re-launching with a conference (flyers provided on tables). It will be an interesting day with the first half of the event being about the repair of earth buildings and the second part about how earth can be used sustainably in new buildings.

Prue Smith asked whether anyone had noticed the rise in overhead wires due to the roll out of full fibre broadband? Providers can trunk it underground but it is easier and cheaper to do it overhead resulting in a proliferation of wires. Others mentioned that there are also areas where it has been laid below-ground but the work and reinstatement of surfacing materials has been carried out poorly. David Edleston mentioned the example of Woodbastwick. It is something for members to be aware of.

1. **Branch Officers:** Emma Sharp explained that branch officers would be decided at the next Committee meeting in Norwich on the 4th of December 2023 at 3.30pm. All are welcome.