

**East Anglia Branch**

**East Anglia Branch Committee**

**Minutes of a meeting held on 5 March 2025**

**On Teams**

**Present:** Emma Woodley (Chair), Kate Knights, Amanda Rix, Katie McAndrew, Stephen Boniface, Eilise McGuane, Maria Kitts, David Edleston, Boyd Nicholas, Lucy Gray, Thomas Pierce

1. **Apologies**: Jo Burton
2. **Minutes of the last meeting**: Held on 4 December 2024 were approved with no amendments.
3. **Matters arising:**

Archiving: KK checked with Head Office and Lydia said that any minutes or events can go on the website and should be sent to them to upload. She said she doesn’t think it is necessary for Business Plans to be uploaded. There was some discussion about this. Amanda to check other branches and to contact Lydia to see if Business Plans should go on. KK to send Lydia minutes and old newsletters to go on website.

**KK / AR**

KK to circulate TP’s correct email address and check EW’s email address is updated.

**KK**

EW suggested that Claire Heggarty, our IHBC branch liaison officer be invited to the next meeting.

**KK**

There was some discussion about the Marsh Awards. All nominations to be in before the end of March. It was suggested that Prue Smith be nominated for the ‘Community Contribution’ for retired members. KK to check and submit the nomination.

**KK**

It was suggested that Daahir Mohamed or Tallie / Dan (trainee millwrights with Tim Whiting) be nominated for the ‘Sucessful Learning’ Award. AR / EM to check they would be happy to be nominated and nominate if so.

**AR / EM**

KK to add IHBC Annual School to the agenda and remove HEF.

**KK**

1. **Reports of representatives**
2. **Council**

KM attended along with about 32 other attendees. Nominations for vice-chair were invited. There was an update on the Petition for Charter. The IHBC have received positive feedback and support. They will be making the application in the next month or so.

It was mentioned that the NPPF is going to be updated again this year with revisions to the Heritage section.

1. **HEF**

No update. KK to remove from agenda.

**KK**

1. **Education**

LG had no update and asked if there is anything in particular the committee would like her to look at. EW stated that at the last meeting it had been discussed in LG’s absence and it was suggested that it would be useful if she could put together a list of heritage training providers in the east. Nicola Duncan-Finn could be a good starting point and may already have a list.

**5. Branch Activities 2024 / 2025**

**i) AGM event: Autumn 2025 Bury St Edmunds**

DE went through the information he had already circulated. It has been agreed that the event should be on Fire Protection and Regulations and will be delivered by Steve Emery (provided by the IHBC). It was noted that it is now compulsory that RIBA members do training in fire safety so it is anticipated that this may be a popular event.

Venues were discussed and it was agreed that St Edmundsbury Cathedral would be the best venue and DE will see if we can offer a tour of the Cathedral at the end of the day, as the tour of the RC Cathedral in Norwich last year was very popular. It was agreed that we should go for 22nd October to avoid half term and DE to proceed on this basis. He will be in the area sometime soon so will try and visit the venue.

**DE**

**ii) IHBC AGM Shrewsbury**

This is on the 11-14 June in Shrewsbury. It was agreed that SB / KM to advertise for the free student place on social media again and give until mid April as a deadline. Otherwise TP or LG may be able to take the place.

**SB/ KM / LG / TP**

1. **Possible event with RICS**

John Allison from RICS had emailed to suggest we co-operate on an event. Unfortunately it was considered that we don’t have the capacity to do this at present. KK to reply.

**KK**

EW mentioned that the RTPI had been in touch with her. They are organising a heritage event in St Albans on 4 July which will consists of a half day of speakers on heritage and design in the historic environment and a half day walking tour. The RTPI have organised but would also like to use our logo and circulate to our members. We would not need to do much – perhaps just circulate. EW to circulate the email she has received but it was agreed that this would probably be OK.

**EW**

1. **Wrest Park stores event**

KM has heard back EH and got some information on prices etc but is still chasing more information. Will continue to do so. It was agreed that it should be advertised as an IHBC networking opportunity to meet other professional and to have the opportunity to see our national heritage collection and how it is cared for.

**KM**

1. **Treasurer’s Report and Business Plan**:

Current balance is: £3,339.87.

All the funds are now in from the last event.

1. **Newsletter:**

MK intends to get the newsletter out for spring. She has most of the material together now.

**MK**

1. **Social Media:**KM and SB are to arrange to meet up to discuss. There are now 49 followers on Instagram. KM would welcome any good news stories form the region – e.g, grant awards, buildings being restored, heritage skills being taught etc. EW suggested a good news story about Thaxted Mill getting grant funding. She will forward to KM.

**SB / KM / EW**

SB mentioned his Talking Conservation podcast where he has recently interviewed Douglas Kent about the Old Sun Inn. Its free so could perhaps be circulated on social media?

1. **Information exchange/AOB**:

SB stated that he has links with the architects involved in the Luton Hoo hotel and golf course project. It’s a big scheme and could perhaps be somewhere for the IHBC to visit to see ‘conservation in action’ in the future. TP is also involved in this project.

TP is now working at Central Bedfordshire Council.

EM mentioned that she recently attended the Cambridgehire CO’s meeting and curtilage mapping is still an issue. KK agreed it has also been an ongoing issue for the Norfolk COs and there seems to be inconsistencies arising in the approaches taken by the different authorities. The issue is that if we follow the approach suggested by the Land Registry (which is not in accordance with how we would normally assess curtilage) and the curtilage is plotted incorrectly, local authorities will be financially liable in the future. EM and EW have tried to contact Head Office about it to see if they could represent members. It was suggested that maybe IHBC Head Office could get Charles Mynors to provide advice to the Land Registry and to members. EW / KM to suggest at the IHBC meeting later in the month that they are attending.

**EW / KM**

KM asked whether committee members who work for a LPA allow reasonable opening up for investigation without LBC, as that used to always be the approach taken but she has found (particularly in the London area) that heritage officers are now asking for LBC, even for small areas of opening up. Has there been a change in guidance? Committee members agreed they would allow small specified areas of opening up without LBC on the basis that it should be made good on a like-for-like basis.

1. **Future meetings for 2025**: Wednesdays at 3.30 pm: 4th June / 3rd September / 3 December.