

Minutes of Meeting: Tuesday 7th April 2009 at The Fox & Crown, Appletongate, Newark

Present: Robert Walker, Fiona Newton, Jane Roylance, Chris McKinney, Roy Lewis, James White, Liz Mayle & Steve Bradwell.

1. Apologies Chloe Oswald, Rachel Booth, David Boyson, Jenny Timothy, Jason Mordan, Philip Grover & Rose Thompson

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes were approved as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

Following up the 'Matters Arising' from the previous Minutes, Rob noted that:

Chairs Report & Business Plan: As Jason was absent no further progress could be made on a possible Branch CPD HER event. However Liz and James had been discussing a potential BaR CPD event to run with the AGM, subject to a suitable venue being found, and Liz noted that James Edgar had tentatively offered to organise the event.

Jane, having been involved in recent restoration works, suggested Whigfield Manor as a suitable venue for a visit but as it was a private house a separate venue would be needed to host the AGM.

Improving Communications & Raising Interest: Rob reported that Charles Strang is the new Chair of the Communications & Outreach Committee and he would contact Charles to introduce James as the East Midlands Branch contact.

[Action: Rob to contact the Chair of the Communications & Outreach Committee]

IHBC web site: Rob noted that details of the Business Plans have now been placed on the IHBC web-site but it was felt the historic Minutes of the Branch AGMs should be added to the Archive section.

[Action: Steve to contact Steve Bowyer regarding old AGM papers]

Item 10: RIBA Split from AABC: Rob had still to contact Anthony Streeton to pass on the Branch's views regarding the potential implications of the RIBA split from the AABC.

[Action: Rob to write to Anthony Streeton]

It was noted that the initial response from James Edgar suggested that English Heritage was likely to remain with the AABC unless/until RIBA produced a

comparable scheme.

However it was also felt that it was important for English Heritage to recognise the value of IHBC membership, which required the demonstration of proven competences, when considering the suitability of professionals to undertake grant work.

Whilst there also appeared to be a reluctance on the part of IHBC to become involved in the affairs of another professional institute, it was felt that in the light of RIBAs proposal to consult other professional bodies but not specifically the IHBC, that Sean should be asked to contact RIBA to ensure that the IHBC is consulted by RIBA in the future.

[Action: Roy to contact Sean]

There was clearly concern that RIBA had not specifically referred to the IHBC, particularly as the IHBC recognises that it is not the only profession involved in the conservation of historic buildings and is prepared to recognise the expertise and involvement of others and has links with other professional bodies.

It was also noted that the potential development of a two-tier system of (AABC and RIBA) accreditation would lead to increasing complications in practice.

Rob made the point that any accreditation needed to be credible and provide sufficient capacity while Jane noted that English Heritage should be expected to provide clear guidance on this issue.

4. Chairman's Report and Business Plan 2008/2009.

Rob noted that the key items for the Annual School were falling into place and that the Business Plan and the Branch budget were on track.

5. Treasurer's Report

In her absence Rose submitted a written report noting that the current account balance stands at £450.09 and the reserve account stands at £389.44.

Two invoices had also been paid to Bolsover District Council in connection with refreshments for the Annual School organising committee, leaving £99.70 in the funds allocated for Annual School expenses.

6. Branch Reps Report

A full written report was attached to the Agenda, however Roy drew particular attention to:

- IHBC representation on the DCMS Asset Transfer Unit – charged with looking at opportunities to move public sector properties that were at risk into the voluntary and community sectors;
- The proposed adoption of a framework of professional standards for IHBC members;
- The opportunities to improve communications between different levels of the IHBC;

- That the annual peripatetic Council meeting for 2009 will be held in Cardiff and a venue was now required for 2010 – there was no support to offer a venue in the East Midlands in the wake of organising the Annual School.

Fiona expressed concerns about the use of a newsletter to circulate information given the work that would be required to produce it and to attract contributions.

Robert Walker thanked Roy for his attendance at the Council meetings.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

Dave was absent from the meeting but Roy noted that the Branch had attracted a number of new members. Roy also noted that the national membership committee were seeking to introduce a more objective form of assessment for membership applications and that the Branches would be consulted on this.

8. County Reps Reports

Derbyshire (CM): the Derbyshire group had had a presentation from James Brennan on building recording techniques.

Leicestershire (DB): a meeting had been held at John Moore's school with discussion about the Article 4 Directions and the effect of the revised GPDO. There was also discussion about the impact of Ros Willatts departure from Harborough Council without any full-time replacement being proposed and the concerns for conservation staff at Blaby and Charnwood.

Lincolnshire (LM): had had a well-attended meeting discussing in particular Part L of the Building Regs, the RIBA/AABC split and the opportunities for specialist training to promote more consistency throughout Lincolnshire.

9. IHBC Branch Committees

Fiona invited items relating to the next edition of Context on the theme of 'rural countryside'.

To support the preparation of the Annual School edition of Context, it was agreed that Roy would be the Branch co-coordinator but that he would need to be supported by volunteers producing reports on the different classes and tours.

[Action: Roy to act as Branch co-ordinator for Annual School edition of Context]

10. Annual School 2009

Chris reported that Hugh Ellis, an adviser to Friends of the Earth, would now be the School's keynote speaker; otherwise the programme and tours were all very much agreed.

Fiona noted that to date there had been 57 bookings for the full School and 22 for the Day School and that the sponsorship was also going well.

11. AOB

Fiona noted that volunteers were required to support the mentoring scheme for new IHBC members, and a new potential member to the East Midlands Branch had asked for support. Roy agreed to act as mentor on this occasion.

[Action: Roy to act as mentor to potential new IHBC member]

Liz referred to a heat treatment for death watch beetle but was concerned about the company's experience in dealing with historic buildings and the possible damage it might do. Jane noted that very often the best practical method was to change environmental conditions rather than treat the timber. However if Branch members were in doubt they could always refer such matters to the IHBC Technical Panel for advice.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 19th May 2009.
