



**Minutes of Branch Committee Meeting:  
Tuesday 2 December 2015  
At The Fox & Crown, Appleton Gate, Newark**

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**Attendance:** Robert Walker, Kelly Appleton, Jason Mordan, Neil Robertson, Chris McKinney, Roy Lewis, Rose Thompson, Jane Roylance, Ros Worrall and Stephen Bradwell

**Guests:** Mathew Crook (West Lindsey) and David Windward (Nottingham City Council)

**Apologies:** Liz Mayle, Fiona Newton, Becky Waddington and Liz Blood

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1. **Minutes of Last Meeting:** Agreed subject to some minor corrections.
2. **Matters Arising:** Following the previous discussions regarding the Branch Annual School Bursary it was considered that it would be useful if information could be sent out as soon as possible to encourage as many members as possible to apply.

Rob suggested that the cost of the 2016 Annual School was likely to be similar to 2015 School and therefore the Branch should budget about £440 for a full place and £150 for the day school.

Given the accessibility of Worcester, Neil and Chris both thought that the provision of two day school places represented better value for the money, but that would not stop anyone topping up to attend the full school if they wanted to. Roy agreed, but noted that travel around Birmingham could be difficult in the mornings.

Ros suggested that the Branch should look to promote expressions of interest before the Annual School details were released to encourage applicants to apply for the Bursary.

**It was agreed** by the Committee that there would be a preference to support two day school places that could be upgraded to a single full school place depending on the number of applicants.

Affiliates Seminar: Rob noted in Liz Mayle's absence that she had declined the offer from Kate Kendall to attend the December Branch meeting and had instead suggested that Kate could visit the Branch sometime in 2016; although it was noted that it would be useful if Kate could indicate whether she had any particular business she wanted to discuss.

3. **Chairs Report & Business Plan:** In Liz Mayle's absence Rob noted that progress had been made in arranging a visit to Haddonstone in April. Also that Philip Gaches, a decorative plasterwork craftsman, was happy to hold a practical session, but this would need a suitable venue and could be linked to the Branch AGM in September.
4. **Branch Reps Report:** Roy noted that in order to encourage wider participation in the IHBC the Council+ Committee has been established and as a consequence the main IHBC business was being conducted through the FNR+ Committee.

Branch membership is currently 159 members of which 99 were full members.

Roy noted that there had been discussions about professional standards for IHBC members, and Matthew Crook noted that the archaeologist's institute had stricter protocol than the IHBC and it seemed that IHBC members often forgot that they had actually signed up to a code of conduct.

5. **Treasurers Report:** Rose reported that the Branch business plan was to be reported to the FNR+ Committee, and it included a budget for the Haddonstone visit and the Branch AGM.

Also that the Branch's finances were:

Current Account - £962.94

Deposit Account - £190.20

6. **Membership Report:** Neil noted that there had not been any recent applications for Branch membership, although three people had expressed interest in joining the IHBC.

7. **County Representatives Report:**

*Derbyshire:* Becky Waddington had submitted a written report circulated with the agenda, noting that the County meetings were being reduced to two a year. Neil noted that this had raised a lot discussion, but some people had to travel quite long travel distances and some authorities did not have any conservation staff.

*Leicestershire:* Liz Blood had submitted a written report circulated with agenda.

*Nottinghamshire:* Jason noted that the Nottingham group had moved to twice yearly meetings. Recent staff changes within the County included a director of heritage strategy post being advertised at Nottingham City and James White moving to North West Leicestershire District Council.

*Lincolnshire:* the next meeting is due on 11 December.

Matthew noted that there had been similar problems in the north-west and on Merseyside two county groups had merged together.

- 8. Communications Officer:** Chris had updated the website with an update from Lincolnshire's last officers' group meeting.

Rob noted that the details of the current Branch officers needed to be amended on the website along with the Branch business plan.

It was also suggested that testimonies from previous Bursary Award holders would be a useful addition to the Branch webpage.

- 9. Historic England Training Event update:** Rose noted that Dr Watt had agreed to give a talk on surveying and building pathology and she also hoped to have a structural engineer, but as yet no venue been agreed, although it was suggested that this event could be held in Nottingham and Jason suggested that the NTU Newton Building could be a suitable location.

- 10. Any Other Business:** Ros wondered whether the CPD events could be opened up to students as a means of attracting potential IHBC members. Rob noted that in the past partners and others had been welcome to attend events if there was sufficient space. There was also a suggestion that the HE event could be linked to NTU's heritage courses, which might also mean that the Branch could get a room for free.

**Meeting closed:** 8.55pm.

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