



· INSTITUTE · OF · HISTORIC ·
BUILDING · CONSERVATION

EAST MIDLANDS BRANCH

**Minutes of Branch Committee Meeting:
Tuesday 27th October 2015
At The Fox & Crown, Appleton Gate, Newark**

Attendance: Chris McKinney, Robert Walker, Roy Lewis, Liz Mayle, Neil Robertson, Jane Roylance, Ros Worrall and Stephen Bradwell

Apologies: Kelly Appleton, Jason Mordan, Fiona Newton, Becky Waddington and Liz Blood

1. Minutes of Last Meeting: Agreed

2. Matters Arising: Chris noted that the AGM Minutes would be added to the IHBC web site.

3. Chairs Report & Business Plan: Rose explained that the Bursary fund had £469 in the Branch current account, with a further £1,067 remaining in the budget to be drawdown as required.

A potential drawdown of £500 for the 2016 Annual School had been included in the Business Plan, although the final decision could be made once the costs of the Annual School were known.

Liz also wanted to look at future Branch events following the responses to the Branch survey, noting that there had been 36 replies to the Branch survey with a number of suggestions for future visits, and 10 positive comments to support CPD events to assist transition to full IHBC membership in view of the lack of LPA training budgets.

Only a small number of respondents suggested that their employers could fully fund them, while others suggested that they were willing to pay a reasonable amount to attend CPD events, with some suggesting a willingness to pay more than £50. Most respondents were prepared to travel 50 miles to attend an event, although some were prepared to travel further.

Liz said she would write a summary of the responses for publication on the IHBC web site (copy attached to the agenda).

Rose noted that she was trying to set up an event in January/February, possibly using the Magnus Building in Newark as the venue, and it was suggested that this could be combined with Branch February meeting.

For the April peripatetic meeting a visit to Haddonstone in Northamptonshire was suggested, sometime in the between 8 and 15 April.

And for the 2016 Branch AGM Liz suggested that Philip Gaches might be persuaded to hold a practical session.

- 4. Branch Reps Report:** Roy noted that a written report had been circulated with the agenda, but he added that the next Council+ meeting was to be held in December, and Ros Worrall was due to attend on behalf of the Branch.

Otherwise most IHBC business was being conducted through the Finance and Resource meetings.

- 5. Treasurers Report:** Rose reported that the Branch accounts had been submitted to the IHBC, and as usual were the first to be received by the IHBC.

Also that the Branch's finances were:

Current Account - £992.94

Deposit Account - £190.20

- 6. Membership Report:** Neil noted that there had been a recent application for full membership which had been supported by the Branch.

- 7. County Representatives Report:**

Derbyshire: Becky Waddington had submitted a written report circulated with agenda, Neil added that the Swadlincote THI was due to be advertised, and that Chloe Oswald was now the Conservation Manager at Derby City.

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

Lincolnshire: Kelly Appleton had submitted a written report circulated with agenda.

Nottinghamshire: Jason Mordan had submitted a written report circulated with agenda.

Northamptonshire: in the absence of Branch rep from Northants, it was suggested that the Branch should write to Rachel Booth so see if any of her County conservation colleagues might be interested in representing the County.

- 8. Communications Officer:** Chris had nothing to report

- 9. Affiliates Seminar:** Following a request from Liz Kendall to host an affiliates seminar in the East Midlands, a semi-formal event to review the professional

and technical competences required for full membership, the Committee was of the view that the Branch did not have the resources to host a meeting at the present time.

10. Any Other Business:

Liz noted that a comment had been made about the criteria for eligibility for the Branch Bursary, and it was confirmed that these clearly tried to support younger members.

Jane noted that she had been attending AABC meetings (for architects accredited in building conservation) on behalf of the Branch. To be considered for membership architects had to provide evidence of recent practice on historic buildings, but there appeared to be a lack of interaction between AABC and the IHBC.

Roy reminded the Committee that the IHBC still had a consultations circulation list which was managed by James Caird. The last issue had been the House of Lords Select Committee on National Policy for the built Environment that includes a national policy framework for protecting the built environment, which was seen as a response to weaknesses in the NPPF. The IHBC response is on the web site for those interested.

Neil asked whether anyone had made a complaint against CiFA members as South Derbyshire was concerned about the standards of a report produced by CiFA member in support of a planning application. Whilst no one on the Branch Committee had pursued such action, Neil was advised to be sure of the grounds of the complaint should his Council decide to pursue the matter.

Summary of IHBC EMids Survey

Thank you to all who responded to our recent survey to find out whether our 'cheap and cheerful' CPD events are of use to members, and how these might be improved. Just under a quarter of you responded, with some very positive feedback. All respondents consider the CPD events we hold to be good value, from both a monetary and quality of learning perspective. In summary:

- Two thirds of respondents were willing to pay, themselves if necessary, for appropriate CPD events. Numbers were divided on how much to pay, but generally, 13% were happy to pay more than £50 if the content of the event was really good, 7% willing to pay up to £30, and a further 7% willing to pay up to £20.
- About a third of you are willing to travel up to 50 miles for an event, and a further third willing to travel up to 35 miles.
- Type of events you would like to see (in order of popularity):
 - a) technology, building construction, care, repair and alteration;
 - b) building and area history;

- c) legislation and policy;
 - d) conservation philosophy;
 - e) research and recording, survey and analysis;
 - f) design and presentation;
 - g) wider professional practice.
- o A very high number of respondents (94%) would also like to attend courses to learn from other conservation professionals, such as conservation engineering, almost two thirds felt that hand on sessions such as lime plastering would be useful. The other aspect of the survey was to see how we might assist members affiliate members move to full membership. The branch will be discussing responses at the next meeting.

Finally, we asked members for suggestion about interesting projects and sites that they are involve with, that would be interesting CPD events. We had a smashing response with many excellent suggestions. The survey demonstrates that the events we organise are valued by members, and hopefully, will be of increasing value as the finances are squeezed ever harder for training budgets. Results have already been used to inform a programme of CPD events for 2016. We are also planning to circulate any suggestions that we cannot take advantage of through branch organisation, but would perhaps be useful to the conservation officer forums to consider.
