



**Minutes of Branch Committee Meeting:
Tuesday 5 February 2013
at The Fox & Crown, Appletongate, Newark**

Present: Robert Walker, Jane Roylance, Jason Mordan, Liz Blood, Rose Thompson, Roy Lewis, Neil Robertson, Mark Strawbridge, Liz Mayle, Stephen Bradwell & Fiona Newton

Apologies: Philip Grover

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting:** Agreed as a true record.
2. **Chair's Report:** Nothing specific to report other than on items coming up on Agenda.
3. **Branch Representatives:** Roy noted that he was unable to attend the previous IHBC Council meeting (the next meeting is to be held on 21st March), although the Minutes of the meeting show that the Branch Business Plan had been approved.

Bob Kindred's list of Ombudsman Enforcement cases is now on the IHBC website and it highlights the problems that have arisen in dealing with heritage matters when Council's have not had any specialist conservation advice to hand.

The Treasurer's report shows we are still in line with budget expectations despite Membership resignations and that the Business Plans for the separate IHBC Committees were also now approved.

The Council also approved the membership application from Jon Phipps, of Latham Architects.

It was also reported that Dave Chetwyn's lottery bid for developing heritage skills amongst surveying graduates is still progressing and a recent IHBC scheme in Scotland to create heritage training placements at architect's offices was trying to get placements within 30 minutes of people's homes.

The 2013 Annual School at Carlisle is also progressing well and the 2014 School will be held at Edinburgh between 4th & 6th June 2014, entitled 'The Art of Conservation'.

The Survey of Local Authority staffing is also now completed for Wales and it shows similar trends to England.

The Government's 'Greendal' is also now operation and to try to allay some concerns about its impact the assessment will ask whether the building is listed building, in a conservation area or is pre-1900.

4. **New Member Applications:** Fiona pointed out that 13 applications for full membership had been made to Full Council and 10 were approved. However this level of interest equates to a considerable amount of work for the existing assessors and to spread the load the IHBC are looking for more assessors.

Fiona also noted that there are now vetting procedures in place to monitor applications to ensure applicants are given the opportunity to ensure that their applications make the fullest case, where applications are less than complete applicants are given the opportunity to revise their form or to have their application assessed as it stands.

5. **Treasurers Report:** Rose noted that there was £92.09 in the current account and £189.91 in the reserve account.

Now that the Business Plan had been agreed she will be applying for the Branch funding from the IHBC. The Branch had also drawn about half of the Buxton surplus. However, she noted that it was increasingly difficult in dealing with the NatWest, who were not particularly helpful, and it was therefore agreed Rose could look at alternative banks, such as the HSBC, for the Branch account.

6. **Membership Report:** Mark noted that the Branch had received a new membership application from Edmund Fox at Northampton, supported by Rachel Booth.

Mark queried whether the extent to which the Branch was expected to vet the application, Fiona noted that different Branches have different approaches but they should generally make a view as to whether the application information stacks up. It was also particularly useful if the Branch is able to provide additional information in respect of any personal knowledge or experience of the applicant and to consider whether the application covers all the necessary sections.

Mark also commented that the time to respond was often very tight and this was particularly difficult over the Christmas period. Fiona suggested in such cases that Mark could e-mail Branch Committee Members asking for their comments in order to formulate his response.

7. **County Representatives:**

Derbyshire: Neil Robertson noted that Dreadnought had given a presentation highlighting new HLF grant schemes. Neil also noted that issues regarding the siting of BT cabinets, Rob agreed and in his experience this was a persistent problem and he often needed to ensure that the contractor has agreed the siting.

Neil also noted that St Helen's House was due for completion in early March for an April occupation so it was unlikely that the Branch would be able to visit.

Lincolnshire: Liz Mayle noted that the last meeting had looked at the latest lead sheet marking scheme. She had also circulated the proposed Branch Communication page but had not received any responses, although this may be due in part to the lack of IHBC members within the County Group.

She also advised that there had been a decision on the Barnwell Manor Wind Turbine appeal.

Leicestershire: Liz Blood noted that there had been no Conservation Officers' Forum since the last Branch meeting.

She noted that Barry Whirrity, the Conservation Officer at Hinckley and Bosworth, was due to retire but there was no indication that he would be replaced.

She also noted that the National Trust had recently purchased a Gimson 'Arts and Crafts' house in the Charnwood Forest, although Stephen also mentioned that another Gimson House in that area had been under threat of demolition.

Liz also asked whether anyone had views on widening the attendance of the County Reps groups, but it was agreed that this was a difficult issue as the County groups were not IHBC meetings and in the past private consultants who were IHBC members had not been welcome at the County Group meetings where sensitive issues were being discussed.

Northamptonshire: No report.

Nottinghamshire: Jason Mordan noted that the group were waiting for a decision on an EH Heritage at Risk pilot scheme that he had made a bid for.

He also noted that EH had shown some interest regarding a gypsum plaster information leaflet. As for staffing, whilst there had been no recent changes as a result of previous changes, two NCOF members were now covering four districts.

8. **Communications:** Although Chris was absent there was some discussion about the Branch web-page template, Jason thought it a good idea but had not been able to present this to the County group.
9. **April Away Day:** Neil had proposed the stable block at Hardwick Hall as a possible venue but he would need to give a date and some details of numbers for the catering. It was agreed to keep with a Friday for the meeting and look to the 12th or 26th of April; to start with a lunch and move onto the Branch meeting and tour of the building.
10. **Any Other Business:** Liz expressed concern that whilst many professional institutes were affiliated to RICS, there was no RICS recognition of the

IHBC, although Roy had pointed out earlier that the IHBC was trying to develop a closer relationship with RICS.

11. **Annual School Bursary:** Two applications had been submitted for the Branch Annual School Bursary and it was agreed that both were strong applications. After much debate about the merits of each application and the criteria for the Branch Bursary it was decided that it should be awarded to Kerry Walmsley of South Kesteven in Lincolnshire.

It was also agreed that the Branch would support an application by Liz Blood for the National IHBC Bursary if she decided to pursue that option.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 16th July – Fox & Crown, Newark
