



DRAFT MINUTES

East Midlands Branch Meeting – 29 May 2012

Held at The Moorings, Castle Gate, Newark

Attendance

Jane Roylance, Roy Lewis, Rose Thompson, Ramona Usher, Mark Strawbridge, Fiona Newton, Rob Walker, Jason Mordan, Chris McKinney, Neil Robertson, Catherine Dove, Elizabeth Blood

Apologies

Stephen Bradwell, Philip Grover

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the 13 April 2012 were approved, subject to an amendment to Item 9: it was not agreed that Roy should raise issues relating to the IHBC professional indemnity scheme at Council.

Chair's Report

Jane reminded those organising county conservation officer group meetings to give general invitations to IHBC members to associated events and visits.

Jane pointed out that she doesn't have members e-mail addresses, which she needs to write welcome letters to new members. Roy agreed to forward the monthly updates he receives from the national office.

Treasurer's Report

Rose reported that the branch has £417.24 in the current account and £189.87 in the deposit account. The bursary annual school place has been paid for, costing £444.00 plus £119.50 for travelling expenses. The £200 from the Buxton Annual School money has now been received from the national office. Rose reported that she has completed the half yearly accounts and submitted them to the national office.

Membership Report

Mark had no current membership applications.

Jane raised the issue of encouraging affiliates to upgrade to full membership. Fiona pointed out that the South Branch has had a successful membership application training event, attended by a membership assessor. There was general agreement that a similar event in the East Midlands would be very worthwhile. Fiona agreed to supply a draft letter to Jane, to start the ball rolling. Mark mentioned that the Arts Council has run seminars showing examples of successful applications, which have proved very useful.

County Rep's Reports

Nottinghamshire: The COG met last month at Welbeck. Tom Street has moved from Rushcliffe to Nottingham City. Rushcliffe is now providing conservation advice for Broxtowe and Bassetlaw is doing the same for Ashfield.

Lincolnshire: Rose has moved from Newark & Sherwood to North Kesteven. Dale Dishon of EH is to give a presentation to LCOG the Friday after the meeting on the NPPF.

Derbyshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire had nothing to report.

Annual School Bursary Update

The recipient is Lisa Walton of North East Derbyshire. The booking is made and paid for, including travelling expenses.

AGM

It was agreed that the 2012 AGM should be held at the British Geological Survey Environmental Science Centre at Keyworth, near Nottingham. It was suggested that Dr Graham Lott, a sedimentologist with the British Geological Survey, and Sara Croft from Heritage Lottery Fund be contacted to help arrange the event.

Branch Press Support Pack - Consultation

Roy explained that this was a consultation from the national office regarding advice for the branch when making press releases. No adverse comments were raised. It was pointed out that the branch makes very few press releases. Jason thought we ought to do more. Catherine pointed out the potential of social networking.

Stanford Hall Visit and Peripatetic Branch Meeting

The visit was considered to have been very successful. The meeting was less successful in that it did not attract additional attendees. Jane agreed to liaise with Steve regarding a method of obtaining feedback from attendees. The principal of having a peripatetic branch meeting was thought worth persevering with but an amended format might have to be considered e.g. perhaps having the meeting before the buffet.

Presentation

During the course of the evening, Catherine Dove gave a very interesting presentation on the Leicestershire and Rutland War Memorials Project. Catherine was the recipient of the 2011 Branch Annual School Bursary. This project revolves around a data-base, which was put together with voluntary sector input. It has proved to be of great local interest and has led to a building at risk survey of this particular building type, which in turn led to a grant scheme for repairs. Sadly, there is a current moratorium on expenditure. The project nonetheless represents another example of ingenious non-mainstream but highly valuable and worthwhile conservation activity.

AOB

Jason drew attention to the very successful Historic Crafts' Fair that had been held on Saturday 12 May 2012 at Southwell Minster. There was a discussion about whether the branch should be involved in future events. Fiona questioned the value we would get from having a stand but pointed out that there is an IHBC stand if the branch wanted to utilise it.

Rose requested additional print paper and compliment slips.

Next meeting

10 July 2012 at The Moorings, Castle Gate, Newark