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BUILDING · CONSERVATION

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2008  
At Old Forde House, Newton Abbot  
At 11.00am**

**MINUTES**

**Attending:** Adron Duckworth, Alex Marsh, Colin Ellis, Helen Garside, Greg Beale, Mo Pearce, Kingsley Fulbrook, Kate Baxter-Hunter

**1. Apologies**

Ian Lund, Alyson Cooper, James Webb, Paul Tomlinson, Caroline Power, Sally Knott

**2. Minutes of last meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

Agreed as a correct record

**3. Matters Arising**

2. ***KBH to circulate contact list again, HG to add details***
4. Response from EH to AC's email had not changed the questionnaire. HG was the only Conservation Officer at the meeting to have responded fully.
5. ***AD still to circulate note to SK.***
8. Business plan sent to Central Office.
12. Hobson Case – brief discussion concluded that the case may not have been well presented. Also that listing descriptions do not always mention interior features EH will be looking at this case. ***GB to send copies to HG & AD***

**4. Report from the Chair**

To be included in the next Bulletin

**5. Report back on Belfast & Birmingham**

GB reported back on the recent trip to Belfast and outlined the main differences under a centralised planning system. Conservation is obviously beneficial to the economy and there is considerable work going on to regenerate areas of Belfast. Political change has acted as a catalyst, but there are still problem buildings and areas. Official events included a Civic reception and several interesting seminars and site visits. Council business included the resignation of David Lovie as President and his successor Eddie Booth.

KBH reported back on the recent Branch Connection Day in Birmingham which concentrated on 3 main areas: Activities - what do we want to do? Needs - what tools do we need to do these and

Opportunities – what would help us most? The key issues were the differences between branches (individualism): their geographical size; the no. of members; the dedication of the Committee and its members; their finances; branch activity etc. KBH commended the SW branch on its professionalism and the hard work of the Committee in all aspects in comparison to other branches, particularly our finances. Communication between all areas of the country was another common theme, with many Branches providing similar seminars/ workshops etc on current hot topics sometimes in competition with other providers eg. HELM. Other large areas eg South Branch has also taken on the 2 location system. There is still a lot to do to improve networking between branches. No information was forthcoming from IHBC/EH administrative assistance for Conservation Officer Groups. **KBH to acquire copy of Membership questionnaire from S/SE Branch for our own use.**

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

See attached report from AC. It was also noted by the Committee to thank AC for her continuing expertise and efficiency in producing the necessary financial reports and information.

## **7. Branch Activities**

a) **Bulletin** – to be published in mid January 2009 – **all contributions to AM by mid December, particularly recent Appeal decisions. IL to submit Chairs Report, KBH Birmingham Connection Day, AC Unitary status in Cornwall. AM to send reminder.**

### **b) CPD Seminars**

- i) **Consistency Theme** – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2009 in Bath. Draft programme circulated, any comments back to JW. **IL, GB & JW to agree and to check methods of payment. KBH to send logo to JW.** MP suggested optional pm tour to justify attendance. **Final leaflet to be sent out before Christmas.**
- ii) **EH listing criteria** – MP chasing EH for dates, but no response so far. **MP to make a formal request.**
- iii) **Heritage Legislation** - see Item 9 below

## **8. Exchange of information**

Changes in Wilts (Unitary) – still ongoing process, both in terms of structure and budgets. Conflict between Unison the Districts over some posts.

CE outlined Sea Changes in Weymouth - £4million bid for mix of environmental improvements, repairs, art, culture etc. Await outcome. MP bid for Arts Centre under same banner.

## **9. Heritage Protection Bill**

HPR currently postponed, see various websites for update

**10. Shopfronts & Signage for chain stores – good practice**

MP requested a series of examples to show better solutions for chain stores relating to historic buildings and places. Considerable discussion over good negotiation skills and educating applicants to look at individual site specific location. Accumulating photographic record of good practice to circulate through the Districts. ***Gather examples from the Membership – item in Bulletin?***

**11. Any other business**

Conservation Area Census – Various input from different LA's/ HG congratulated for completing.

Conference 2009 – suggested topics: Solar energy; Sustainable Buildings Group; other possible topics to be gleaned from membership questionnaire.

**Date of next meeting – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February after Seminar, Bath**

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