



· INSTITUTE · OF · HISTORIC ·  
BUILDING · CONSERVATION

**Meeting held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2010  
In the Dining Room at Forde House, Newton Abbot  
At 11.00am**

**MINUTES**

**Attending:** Ian Lund, Alyson Cooper, Adron Duckworth, Colin Ellis, Kingsley Fulbrook, Mo Pearce, Helen Garside, Kate Baxter-Hunter

**1. Apologies**

James Webb, Alex Marsh, Greg Beale, Simon Went, Caroline Power, Alex Marsh, Stephen Bateman

**2. Minutes of last meeting held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

Agreed as a correct record

**3. Matters Arising**

Treasurer's report: Clarification regarding expenses – Committee to use cheapest method of transport wherever possible;  
6c) Membership issues raised at meeting IL;  
6e) KBH responded to Kate Biggs;  
8) Clarification of circulation lists etc has improved communication to all members.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

AC reported that the main activity at the current time is expenses claims. The current balance is £13,316.08.

**5. Report from the Chair**

Following on from last Council Meeting:

1. Revised PPS5 – debate had been about whether to publish now with limits or not at all after the Elections. The document had taken on board some of the concerns and comments from IHBC etc. It is understood a major re-drafting has made the document more palatable to all. No Annex C. Would LA's need to adopt Annex C (see Item 8b below)? **NB. PPS5 now published end of March**

2. Finances – these remain reasonably positive in the light of current economic climate.

3. Membership – still increasing (2079). SW area is still the biggest with 287 in total. David Faulkner has resigned from North Wilts – ***HG to send card on behalf of Branch.***

4. National Staffing Survey 2009(conservation staff levels) – out of every 5 LA's, 2 are the same, 1 improved and 2 reduced. Also noted much informal sharing of staff – S & W Dorset have 'clustering' sharing one CX; Cornwall – now carrying out re-evaluation across 3 Districts to 'harmonise' staff; Wilts – to finish harmonisation by end of 2010; West Devon, Torridge & Teignbridge sharing CX; South Somerset & East Devon sharing CX

5. Annual School – see item 7 below.

6. Next Chair – to be Jo Evans

7. Low Carbon Economy Consultation – CLG consultation on PPS – some conflict with maintenance of Historic Buildings, but no recognition of problems created for townscapes and conservation areas.

8. Penfold Review – review of non-planning regulations had used loaded questions, outcome uncertain

9. Future of EH – proposed merger of EH & HLF not likely, but EH & English Nature more possible.

**6. New Committee Structure – please bring details previously circulated by email on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

Both JW & PT have asked IL to consider their resignation from the Committee. The general consensus was that this would be a huge loss to the Committee and that hopefully they may be persuaded to remain in post. Due to work responsibilities and other commitments several members are finding it difficult to attend meetings.

Discussion concluded that the new Structure might help to alleviate some of the workload. In particular, the split of the Chair and the Branch representative. It was also noted that Simon Went had expressed an interest in the Education/Events post. This was welcomed and agreed.

It was agreed that this item should be given more thought with a view to appointing new posts at the next AGM.

***If any Committee member wishes to stand down; take on a new role or is able to introduce new volunteers, this should be forwarded to IL - All***

The Business Plan is in need of revision.

***IL/PT to update prior to AGM***

**7. IHBC Annual School - free place for Branch Committee Member including funding (£500)**

Agreed that Alyson Cooper would attend. **KBH to liaise with IHBC and to book place on Committees behalf.**

## 8. Branch Activities

### a) Bulletin

The Bulletin continues to be an excellent and vibrant publication and thanks were extended to AM. The next deadline for the Bulletin is 7th May. This should include the new Committee Structure to attract possible new volunteers (IL & KBH). Following payment of an honorarium it was suggested that AM be asked if he requires any additional software to assist in the production of the Bulletin

### b) Consistency Roadshow

This will depend on the publication of PPS5 and may alter the form any further event may take. Discussion revolved around Annex C (PPG15); consistency with double glazing; sustainability; climate change; eco- refurbishment (see leaflet from KF, attached); conservation policy eg. windows (South Somerset). KBH to continue to circulate any information and Conservation Officer Groups to disseminate information.

### c) THI/AGM – Shepton Mallet

The discussion was brief in the absence of PT. There is some difficulty in fitting our requirements for an event with THI, but should not prove insurmountable. In the event that a solution is not found other possible suggestions or alternatives were: Slate policy; Link with Chris Woods EH (Sustainability) – links to guidance notes, publications, and skills training. Alternatively, CABE event, Building in Context or EH link. Preferable date October to coincide with AGM

### d) Branch Questionnaire

Postponed until the next meeting

## 9. Exchange of information

AC reported on the presentation by Andrew Vines on PPS5 from the EH viewpoint at the Forum in Bristol.

CP asked for volunteers to assist in Gloucester with the RDA/HCA Master Plan – **SW or SB please contact CP to discuss possibility of help**

Branch Connection day in November 2010 to concentrate on Financial issues – **AC to attend**

Following request from KF regarding Community involvement in Conservation Areas AC suggested Devoran and St Columb Major. (See Cornwall website) – **AC to circulate**

See also EH Conservation Area guidance notes – case and best practice studies.

Local Development Orders (Article 4 Design Guide) – **AC to circulate information**

**10. Any other business**

AC raised opportunities through Natural England under the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme to obtain 100% capital funding for historic buildings. Originally in rural/farming context they had switched to include World Heritage sites.

Next EH topic – Churches @ Risk

Local Government reorganisation – in both Wilts & Cornwall cuts in DC & Strategic Planning jobs have resulted in less involvement in various current issues

**Date of next meeting – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2010 @ Newton Abbot**

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