

**INSTITUTE OF HISTORIC BUILDING CONSERVATION
SEFYDLIAD CADWRAETH ADEILADU HANESYDDOL
CANGEN CYMRU *WALES BRANCH**

**MINUTES OF THE IHBC WALES BRANCH MEETING HELD ON THE 25th
MARCH 2009 AT THE St GEORGE'S HOTEL, THE PARADE, LLANDUDNO.**

PRESENT: Garry Cooper, Simon Robertshaw, Dewi Williams, Pat Martin, Ron Douglass, Bob Bowler, Lowri Thomas, Nathan Blanchard, Richard S. Dean, Edward Holland, Eddie Booth, Dave Jump and Sean Wood.

1.APOLOGIES

1.1. Apologies were received from Lindsay Cuddy, Kirsty Henderson, John Edwards, Neil Sumner and Trefor Thorpe.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS IHBC WALES BRANCH MEETING HELD ON THE 2nd FEBRUARY 2009 AT ABERDARE HALL, UNIVERSITY OF CARDIFF, CORBETT ROAD, CARDIFF.

2.1. The minutes were read and agreed as a true record of the meeting bar the apology received from Alan Richards (*agreed nem con R.S.D. proposed N.B. seconded*).

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MEETING

3.1. R.S.D. wished to record that he had indeed reported Alan Richards apologies at the last meeting. D.J. acknowledged this.

4. BRANCH PROMOTION – LEAFLET DISTRIBUTION AND INSTITUTE OF CIVIL ENGINEERS (I.C.E.) CALENDAR OF EVENTS ETC (UP DATE)

4.1. D.J. reported the I.C.E. has postponed the work to create an electronic Wales Calendar of Events due to the cost. D.J. reported I.C.E. had made an enquiry to him for details for the 2010 Wales Calendar of Events which had been forwarded to the committee.

L.T. asked D.J. for I.C.E.'s contact details so she can action this. D.J. gave L.T. a copy of the email.

5. HOW THE NEW IHBC WALES BRANCH COMMITTEE IS WORKING

5.1. R.S.D. informed the meeting it seemed to be working out o.k.

R.S.D. asked G.C. did he feel a bit isolated in West Wales?

G.C. replied with the agreement of the meeting that as events are in both the South and the North and emailing is so easy the whole thing is working out much better than he and others had anticipated.

N.B. commented about the importance of working closely with all branch members across Wales.

R.S.D. suggested we should host a branch meeting in West Wales and consider changing the branch meeting on the 24th September to a late summer one in Aberystwyth.

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(Following this the meeting agreed not to change item 6 of the minutes of the last meeting).

6. IHBC WALES BRANCH OFFICER'S REPORTS.

6.1. R.D. (Treasurer) informed the meeting financially we are not doing too badly. We have £1,420 in the current account, £1002 in the savings account and £500 in the reserve account.

6.2. R.S.D. asked about officers claims for expenses. N.B. confirmed officers travelling more than 10 miles from home on IHBC business could make a claim. N.B. and D.J. confirmed IHBC claim forms can be down loaded from the IHBC website. If you use the IHBC search facility as it's not that easy to locate.

6.3. S.R. asked about the money raised from events such as the conference tomorrow? N.B. responded by saying resultant profits were split between the relevant partners. Unfortunately, with tomorrow's conference and the cost of overnight stays, travelling expenses and a dinner for speakers the night before this had significant costs we normally don't incur in organising conferences due to differing demands of partners. However, this did reflect the range and quality of the speakers which we alone may not have been able to secure if it wasn't for working in partnership with PRT.

6.4. N.B. (Branch Representative) reminded the meeting of the IHBC Presidents letter (Those who should be IHBC members but are not). This item was discussed by the meeting in some detail. It was agreed by the meeting to feed N.B. with names and details. N.B. reported that one way forward was to inform potential members about the tax relief available.

6.5. D.J. (Secretary) informed the meeting Devon De Celles had emailed him yesterday with an update IHBC Wales Branch Membership Database which now numbers 95. Devon had gone on to say in her email a new list with details of members who were passed through at the March Council will follow next week.

6.6. E.B. (IHBC President) wished to inform the meeting about the current recruitment drive by the IHBC. We now have 1800 plus IHBC members but it's about going back to the beginnings when Mary King came up with 2000 by 2000.

E.B. informed the role of the letter is to target those who have fallen into the black hole. If need be this can then be followed up with a telephone call.

R.S.D. said we need to have a map of people working in the field in Wales in order to target potential IHBC members.

N.B. raised the draft paper on the duties expected of IHBC Committee Officers saying we appear to have all the bases covered in Wales.

7. THE ISSUE OF UPVC WINDOWS Vs TIMBER (G.C.)

7.1. G.C. informed the meeting of the issues by confirming that Aberystwyth's Conservation Area does not have an Article 4 Direction and it is 30 years since it was designated. Since then it has been slowly degraded of its character by unsympathetic developments to such an extent that parts of it may not now be worthy to stay within the

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'Conservation area' designation . What is IHBC's stance on this issue and could we support a proper academic study to see where we are?

7.2. E.B. informed the meeting of the really good guidance produced by both English Heritage and Scottish Heritage.

The meeting was in full agreement with this fact. G.C. proposed that the IHBC or even the Wales Branch research and publish a brochure of the facts pertaining to UPVC Vs Timber Windows. The scope of the study could include the 'sustainability' of plastic, maintenance and eco friendly issues associated with UPVC. The effect on property values of original timber Vs. plastic replacement windows. Insulation issues and the like.

E.H. said Jill Fairweather of Cadw was busy preparing a document on Micro Renewables and the Historic Environment as well as The Princes Regeneration Trust who are preparing various guidance.

R.S.D. Said there is a wealth of information out there and the sustainable agenda has certainly fuelled the course.

R.S.D. asked if they could feed him with any information on this one. It was agreed to look at this matter again at a future meeting of the branch.

7.3. N.B. mentioned the excellent publication by Lydia Wilson which covered all the arguments, especially the sustainability argument. Copies can be found at the following link: www.ni-environment.gov.uk/framing_the_view.pdf

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8. THIS YEAR'S PROGRAMME OF CPD EVENTS (L.T.)

8.1. L.T. reported on the emails she had received in response to the CPD Flyer sent out and on the website.

L.T. raised the matter of all the different cheques she had received .

R.D. (Treasurer) asked Lowri to collect all cheques together before forwarding to him . Invoices to be sent directly.

8.2. D.W. informed the meeting R.I.C.S. are arranging a CPD visit to the new café on the top of Snowdon and would IHBC Wales Branch members wish to be included on the visit?

The meeting was very supportive and asked L.T. to liaise with D.W.

9. IHBC COUNCIL MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER 2009 (L.T.)

9.1. R.S.D. informed the meeting the IHBC Council Meeting last year was held in Belfast. This year it will be held in Cardiff on the 23 and 24th September.

There will be a Council Meeting on the Wednesday followed by a dinner.

L.T. confirmed The Minister's Office had emailed her confirming of his confirmation to be present and give an address. The conference will take place at the Park Thistle Hotel. The dinner a four course meal costing £35 per head will be in the banqueting Hall of Cardiff Castle which has a potential capacity of 300.

10. IHBC WALES BRANCH WEBSITE (UPDATE)(L.T.)

10.1. L.T. informed that it's all up to date.

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11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1. R.S.D. informed the meeting people had been asking who are the current IHBC Wales Branch Committee Officers?

R.S.D. suggested that we report this in the minutes of this meeting . The meeting agreed.

(See extract below cut and pasted from the 2008 IHBC Wales Branch AGM)

6.2. The meeting was then asked to vote on the posts available i.e. The Chairman's , The Vice Chairman's, The Networking / Publicity and Events Officer and the Consultations Secretary.

The meeting voted all in favour of :

Richard Dean for Chairman.

John Edwards for Vice Chairman

Lowri Thomas for Networking/ Publicity and Events Officer and

Garry Cooper for Consultations Secretary.

It was decided that for the time being

Dave Jump (Secretary),

Nathan Blanchard (Branch Representative to Council),

Trefor Thorpe (Membership Secretary),

Alan Richards (Education/Training and CPD Officer),

Peter White (Mid Wales Representative) and

Ron Douglass (Treasurer) would remain in their respective posts in order to maintain an all Wales IHBC Wales Branch Committee.

R.D. Wished to extend a vote of thanks to GHJ.

(agreed nem con The meeting).

12. DATE , TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

12.1. The next IHBC Wales Branch Meeting will be held at approx' 3.30pm following the BHF at the International Pavilion , Royal Welsh Show Ground, Llanelwedd, Powys on the Friday 22nd May 2009.