IHBC YORKSHIRE BRANCH
AGM - MINUTES
SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2026
11.00 - 11.30am
Location – Masonic Hall, Goole

ATTENDEES: Emma Gibbens (EG), Eric Carter, Richard Maddison, Stan Driver, Sheena Campbell (SC), Stephen Walker (SW), Andrew Shepherd (AS), Elizabeth Laycock (LL), Sarah Neville, Hilary Byers, Zoe Kemp, Vicky Fintoff (VC), Stephen Gandolfi (SG), Elizabeth Humble, Sian Anthony and Tom Bromet (TB).

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

LL welcomed all to the AGM and advised that if anyone wished to become a non-portfolio committee member they could indicate their interest at the end of the officer elections. SW pointed out fire exits and WC locations.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

David Houltby (DH), Duncan Marks, Clare Chapman, Illan Santos (IS), David Rawlins, Alison Montgomery, Lisa McIntyre.

3. OFFICERS' REPORTS

CHAIR – LL thanked the committee for being supportive of her in the last year and apologised for not being able to fulfil her duties. She advised that it had been a difficult year due to her job situation and that it was made easier because of the committee's support.

BRANCH REP ON COUNCIL – DH was not present but AS provided a review – that there were 2 councils in the past year which have largely covered chartership and sought to explain the money spent on this process. He noted that there were sceptics but it is moving forward. Otherwise, councils covered housekeeping matters.

SECRETARY – EG advised that over the past year, she has mainly been managing committee meeting agendas and minutes, updating membership contact lists, sending on CPD opportunities to the branch and dealing with any general enquiries (of which they have been very few). She had on occasion acted as chair of the committee meeting when LL was not able to attend. This was not too onerous but required efficient note taking. She noted that the committee has continued to be supported on head office matters by Sheena Campbell, for which she was grateful.

TREASURER – EC advised that the AGM used to coincide with the end of the Financial Year but this has been moved to the end of March. EC therefore reported on spending since the last AGM. At the last AGM, the branch balance was £2786.25 with expenses of £275, therefore resulting in a balance of £2511.25.

EVENTS SECRETARIES – TB advised that since the last AGM he had been trying to organise a fire safety talk and also looked at Building Regulations (both central lectures). The branch has also supported the 2 day lime event that took place at York Minster in June. EG commented that we will also be looking at trying online events via Microsoft Teams.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY – EC advised that since last October membership had increased by 12 (including 10 more at supporter level), giving a current total of 180 members.

BRANCH MEDIA OFFICER – IS was not present but provided a report – this was not read out at the committee due to an admin error but is included here: IS had made very few social media posts over the year, essentially following similar organisations/reposting and accepting followers. On a separate matter, he has been pushing membership to all the conservation officers he meets in the course of his work and also now has a colleague at associate level.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR – LL advised that this year's newsletter was recently sent out to the branch. She thanked the branch for contributions but will be looking to press further for future contributions.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY REP – SG advised that there was not much to report but the June lime event in York was well attended with good speakers and interesting subject matters. SG has been keeping an eye on recruitment at North Yorkshire Council where 2 roles have recently been advertised. EG clarified that the council had recruited 2 posts as a result of this process – 1 one year post and 1 two year post. SG advised that English Heritage delivered a number of conservation projects over the summer, including in North Yorkshire, the rebuilding of the Rievaulx Abbey Tannery Vats and design work which will lead to various conservation projects at Scarborough Castle.
SG also added that he had used the IHBC job advert process and noted that it worked well.

EAST YORKSHIRE COUNTY REP – SW advised that it was very quiet in the area but there have been several projects – The National Picture Theatre in Hull has been completed. The National Maritime Museum in Hull has re-opened. Work have commenced at the North End Shipyard in Hull. The converted Market Hall in Goole has opened.

WEST YORKSHIRE COUNTY REP – VF advised that there had not been many training events in the area but there were a few projects such as Dewsbury Arcade (SC confirmed this had re-opened). There had been lots of properties involved in the Heritage Open Day including tours in Wakefield. Generally, she had received no queries and seen little movement of conservation officers. She advised had she would be happy for someone else to take on the officer role as she had moved out of the area.
SC added that in Huddersfield, the Library had moved to a new building and the former building sold; Queensgate Square had been upgraded with a fountain and space for events; the concrete mushrooms (Queensgate Market) will be converted to a food hall. SC added there is good coverage of the area of conservation officers but numbers have overall reduced.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY REP – Ruth Masood was not present and no report was provided. However, others updated on projects in the area – SG advised that there had been a large project to address leaks in the roof at Brodsworth Hall (English Heritage). LL advised that work is on-going at Sheffield Castle. AS advised that the roof Sheffield Old Town Hall had collapsed and a repairs notice had been served.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

CHAIR – EG advised that LL is resigning from the post, having agreed to take on the role for a period of a year at the last AGM. At that time, DH showed an interest in taking up the post from this point and this is still the case – he has therefore put himself up for election. EG read out a few words provided by DH giving a brief background on DH's work and involvement with the committee.

No-one else put themselves forward for the role. There were no objections to DH being chair.

BRANCH REP ON COUNCIL – DH previously confirmed he was happy to stay in this role.
No-one else put themselves forward for the role. There were no objections to DH being Branch Rep on Council.

SECRETARY – EG confirmed she was happy to stay in this role.
No-one else put themselves forward for the role. There were no objections to EG being Secretary.

TREASURER – EC confirmed he was happy to stay in this role.
No-one else put themselves forward for the role. There were no objections to EC being Treasurer.

EVENTS SECRETARYS – TB and AM previously confirmed they was happy to stay in this role.
No-one else put themselves forward for the role. There were no objections TB and AM being Events Secretaries.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY – EC confirmed he was happy to stay in this role.
No-one else put themselves forward for the role. There were no objections to EC being Membership Secretary.

BRANCH MEDIA OFFICER – IS had previously confirmed he was happy to stay in this role
No-one else put themselves forward for the role. There were no objections to IS being Branch Media Officer.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR – LL confirmed she was happy to stay in this role.
No-one else put themselves forward for the role. There were no objections to LL being Newsletter Editor.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY REP – SG confirmed he was happy to stay in this role.
No-one else put themselves forward for the role. There were no objections SG being NY county rep.

EAST YORKSHIRE COUNTY REP – SW confirmed he was happy to stay in this role.
No-one else put themselves forward for the role. There were no objections SW being EY county rep.

WEST YORKSHIRE COUNTY REP – VC confirmed she was happy to stay in this role.
No-one else put themselves forward for the role. There were no objections VC being WY county rep.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY REP – RM had previously confirmed she was happy to stay in this role.
No-one else put themselves forward for the role. There were no objections to RM being SY county rep.

EG asked if anybody would like to become a non-portfolio committee member – there were no proposals.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

SC provided central office updates:

- Entries can be put forward for the Marsh Awards which celebrate retired members – nominations can be made up to the end of 11th December. Nominations can be made by the branch.
- The Corporate Plan 2026-30 is open for consultation, deadline being 30th October (verbal or online responses). This focuses on the charter but other matters also.
- It is the IHBC's 30th anniversary next year and small grants will be available for events.
- The recent conservation officer survey had 118 replies and the results will be reported in the parliamentary briefing in January.
- Summer schools will be in Bristol and Bath (SW) next year and in East Anglia in 2028.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

In a year's time (typically in October), location to be decided.