



· INSTITUTE · OF · HISTORIC ·
BUILDING · CONSERVATION

AGM Papers &
Annual Report

2016

Institute of Historic Building Conservation ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

5.30pm, Friday 24 June 2016 at
Worcester University Arena, Hylton Road,
Worcester WR2 5JN

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the 2014 AGM of the IHBC. *Resolution 1: Adoption*
To adopt the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) held at Open, 20 Bank Plain, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 4SF on Friday 19 June 2015
- 3 Council's report. *Resolution 2: Adoption*
To adopt the IHBC Council's Report for the year ending 30 September 2015
- 4 Financial statement and treasurer's report:
Accounts. Resolution 3: Receipt
To receive the reports of the Hon Treasurer and Council for the financial year 1 October 2014 to 30 September 2015 and to approve the accounts for that period

Independent Examiners. Resolution 4: Appointment
To appoint Larking Gowen, chartered accountants, as Independent Examiners to the institute, to hold office from the conclusion of the present General Meeting until the conclusion of the next General Meeting at which accounts in respect of an accounting reference period are laid
- 5 Appointment of elected officers. *Resolution 5: Appointment*
To appoint as trustees and directors of the IHBC the officers with majority votes cast in support of their nomination in accordance with the IHBC's Memorandum and Articles of Association (See AGM papers)
- 6 Ratification of branch nominations. *Resolution 6: Ratification*
To ratify the nominations as trustees and directors of the IHBC by the branches as notified to the council in accordance with the IHBC's Memorandum and Articles of Association (See AGM papers)
- 7 Motions to the AGM

*At the time of going to press no motions had been received at the institute's offices.
Following the AGM there will be an opportunity to discuss current issues.*

**THE INSTITUTE OF
HISTORIC BUILDING
CONSERVATION**

www.ihbc.org.uk

Registered as a charity in
England and Wales number
1061593 and in Scotland
number SC041945

Company Limited by
Guarantee

Registered in England
number 3333780

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These documents were
prepared by the IHBC's
National Office.

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TRUSTEE'S REPORT

The trustees (who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act) present their annual report together with the financial statements of The Institute of Historic Building Conservation (the company) for the year ended 30 September 2015.

The trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The institute is governed by an elected council of trustees with up to 22 voting members consisting of up to nine elected officers (chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer and five officers serving as committee chairs) and up to 13 trustees appointed by regional and national branches.

Council is also advised by non-voting officers co-opted by council, including the president, and by five committees, each chaired by its corresponding elected officer: Finance & Resources, Membership & Ethics, Education Training & Standards, Policy, and Communications & Outreach. These committees help oversee a range of advisory subcommittees, representatives and panels.

Council and committees are supported by a small national office executive team responsible for organisational management, including the Director, Projects Officer, Administrator, 'Learning, Education, Training and Standards' (LETS) Liaison Officer and Membership Services Officer alongside other operational support.

The trustees confirm that, in exercising their powers and duties, they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The IHBC is a company and a charity registered in England and Scotland, and exists to promote, for the benefit of the public, the conservation of and education and training in the conservation and preservation of buildings, structures, areas, gardens and landscapes which are of architectural or historical value in the UK insofar as it lies within the duties and responsibilities of any person whose principal professional skills are to provide specialist advice in such conservation and preservation.

The IHBC's key activities are:

- setting standards for conservation practice and improving education and training in conservation

- raising the profile of conservation and promoting its role in economic and social regeneration
- supporting excellence in all aspects of conservation, whether in the identification, analysis, repair and reuse of historic buildings or in new design in historic settings
- stimulating debate on how the role of conservation should develop
- organising training events and further developing the branch network to encourage the continued exchange of information between practitioners locally as well as nationally.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The IHBC has maintained its high level of activity and influence across the wide range of interests that shape conservation while in 2014-15 we have expanded our resources following the success of our income-generating initiatives.

Additional operational capacity has been introduced with the appointment of Kate Kendall as our ‘Learning, Education, Training and Standards’ (LETS) Liaison Officer, to support our energetic network of volunteers across our branches. That appointment underpinned the implementation of our new Associate category of membership, as we welcomed our first Associate member, and new explorations of governance intended to enhance our constituencies of interest as well as to secure our future.

The operations and evolution of our branches remained at the heart of what our institute has achieved. For the current year, nowhere was this more evident than in Northern Ireland where, with the special support of our then president Trefor Thorpe, as well as the National Office, a hiatus in voluntary capacity was resolved with the appointment and re-appointment of branch officers, including Andrew McClelland, as branch chair, and Jill Kerry, as trustee and branch representative. This rejuvenation quickly led to a busy programme including a local membership application support event led by Kate Kendall and the institute’s director, and a branch conference on local authority conservation management. Today we can look forward to that branch leading our Annual School in 2018.

With support from our branches and volunteers too, the institute continued to refine our membership application procedures to help guide applicants more efficiently through the accreditation process. We now have our ‘Stepping Stones’ strategy fully operational, with the new Associate level of membership in place as an intermediate level relating to a single area of practice or Area of Practical Competence, as opposed to the wider inter-disciplinary conservation competences required of Full Members. The presence of a LETS Officer, albeit appointed to a half-time role, allowed us to deliver personal and personnel support in the form of local, branch-supported events advising on membership applications, making those structural changes more meaningful to the career and learning prospects of all categories of current and future members of the institute.

The continuing potential of the IHBC's voluntary branch-based training and education infrastructure was, as ever, most evident in the central role played by our East Anglia branch, which led and helped manage the School in a tight partnership between the School committee, volunteers and the national office, in particular Fiona Newton, IHBC's projects officer. As in other years, we also reaped the rewards of warmly welcoming non-members to the school – who constituted nearly 20 per cent of the delegates – as well as our members, both regular and occasional. Our success in delivering relevant and current themed CPD to a specialist, multidisciplinary audience was confirmed again there, as 87 per cent of delegates considered that the school met their training requirements completely or sufficiently, and 97 per cent considered it invaluable, very useful or useful.

If that was all familiar territory, our 'experimental evolution' around the institute's development of a more accessible infrastructure for governance was much less so. At its launch in December 2014 our then president, Trefor Thorpe summarised the plan as follows:

'This testing will allow us to explore alternative support and management processes without the need to change our constitution. That way we will know just what we want to do when we are ready to do it. This is a careful plan that, like all good conservation projects, recognises the importance both of precautionary principles and reversibility.'

Since then we have enjoyed two extremely successful meetings of a newly established wider advisory forum, Council+, with about 40 members, of all categories, at each. We have also developed a more frequent programme of trustee meetings to maintain essential levels of oversight of trustees' primary concerns - risk and resources - using online meetings to make their obligations more manageable.

Development of IHBC+ is also re-shaping our national committees, in particular as they take on the nomadic outreach that had been achieved previously by our 'peripatetic council'. Such new duties require new capacity, and as branches remain central to the local delivery of the national committees, trustees more recently agreed - in December 2015 – both to increase the funding allocation to branches (by £250 each) and to invest in a new Branch Event Support Officer.

As with these initiatives, many recent activities helped consolidate our presence and profile across the diverse sectors in which our members work: heritage and culture; development and regeneration, and education and environment, among many others. Even so, in recent years our membership numbers reached a plateau at about 2,200. However, our recent investment in volunteer support and new membership structures such as IHBC+ seems to have revived subscription levels. That income has leapt some £15,000 ahead of projections and so already covered a good part of the LETS appointment costs.

Our support for commercial and corporate conservation practices, HESPR, has also seen little change numerically, but that has not made us cautious about maintaining

and enhancing its services: promotion continues in the *Yearbook*, as well as online through its dedicated website and in our accredited members' details, while an updated and refreshed branding of HESPR complements our regular bulletins of business tenders and the circulation of fliers at events. For all individual members, we also continue to negotiate reduced rates from partner bodies' events – including notably the National Trust; Historic England (for thatch) and the University of Oxford among many others. These operations continue to help generate important growth in our numbers and in the public profile of our membership, all just as the economy revives.

Our online networks, such as LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter, also continue to provide valuable opportunities to raise awareness and understanding of member operations across an unprecedented diversity of sectors, expanding by nearly 2,000 again this year to almost 11,000. These have been given added impetus not only from the new skills arising from recent appointments, including Research Notes consultant Bob Kindred and NewsBlog consultant Alison McCandlish, but from a suite of new and rejuvenated activities, centred on the added 'grass-root' capacity generated by our Council+ and our continuing body of digital innovations and evolutions. These include the WebStarter, now recast as our 'SelfStarter'; TeamStarter, which anticipates its first membership applications; and the ongoing development of our web-based domestic building maintenance resource, developed from the 'Stitch in Time' publication, the 'Caring for your Home' website, as well as - and central to all of this support work - our practitioners' online resource, the 'Toolbox', linked from our home page.

These resources are all crucial to delivering on our ambitions over the next five years, ambitions captured in our new corporate plan, 'CP20', which covers the period from 2015 to 2020. CP20 builds on these and other key achievements for the year, including our new Marsh Awards, the expansion of our research and advocacy agenda, and our re-cast professional indemnity scheme. For those seeking more detail on our work, all ongoing activities and operations are reported more widely and in greater depth across our other communication services, including our journal, *Context*, the *Yearbook*, and our Membership e-bulletin, as well as the highly regarded IHBC news service, our NewsBlog, and the branch's own web pages and linked publications and digital media platforms.

As ever, the board of trustees – our constitutional Council - offers its special and sincere gratitude to the many volunteers who have contributed to our vast work programme over the year. Whether through serving under our national committees, Council+, or within the branch operations, our volunteers ensure that the IHBC continues to serve as an effective voice of the sector and as a genuine professional benefit to its members. So as well as thanking departing trustees and officers, not least our outgoing president Trefor Thorpe, the board is also delighted to welcome new appointments for the year, not least our new vice chair, Kathryn Davies and our new president, David McDonald.

We can summarise some more of our recent achievements in line with our corporate plan as follows:

HELPING PEOPLE

- Maintained and enhanced our publicly accessible, web-based suite of information and advisory services, now with some 30,000 pages, covering news, guidance, events, branches, publications, jobs and our conservation service providers listing, HESPR
- Continuing branch operations, capacity and support through:
 - funding and investment guided by annual business plans
 - appointment of Kate Kendall as our ‘LETS’ officer
 - our 2014 ‘Branch Connection Day’, exploring disciplinary processes
 - a second ‘Course Connection Day’ supporting local outreach to conservation training
 - branch-focused meetings to support membership applications
 - branch web pages, and, of course,
 - board meetings and the development of the IHBC+ infrastructure of governance, including our Council+
- Delivered continuing improvement in access to and quality of services, including the successful continuation of the Annual School bursary programme under the guidance of Bob Kindred
- Maintained links with national and third sector interests and partnerships, including through the Annual School and with strategic bodies such as Heritage Alliance, Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS), The Place Alliance – including membership and meeting sponsorship - and the Joint Committee of National Amenity Societies (JCNAS), as well as more informal groupings and collectives such as, in England, the Historic Environment Forum (HEF) and the ‘Heritage 2020’ sector initiative; policy review and support roles related to the Historic Environment Strategy initiatives in Scotland and, perhaps most important for our members on the ground, the legislative changes in Wales in which our Wales branch continue to play important roles
- Maintained and enhanced connections to construction sector and non-core heritage interests notably by:
 - enhancing links with the mainstream players in the construction sector, including the Council on Training in Architectural Conservation (COTAC), and the National Heritage Training group (NHTG), and also through the 2015 *Yearbook*
 - maintaining representation on other critical lead bodies, including the National Planning Forum with IHBC past chair Dave Chetwyn serving as vice chair
- Wide public access to our services, including successfully enriching our digital social networks such as the IHBC’s LinkedIn group, which carries IHBC-specific news from the NewsBlog as well as jobs notices; the NewsBlog archive and online editions of *Context*.

HELPING CONSERVATION

- Maintained our high standards of professional publications, including our journal, *Context*, and themed *Yearbook*, while also offering online access to the journal
- Continued to explore formal standards in conservation through advocacy, partnership and consultation, notably promoting the British Standard for Conservation, BS 7913, including by marketing our hard-wearing IHBC-branded and reduced-price copy
- Some 23 major consultation responses on our behalf, with numerous others considered or benefiting from our advice, support and input
- Maintained our substantial education and training programmes offered across our branch network – including in London, Liverpool, Belfast and many more – as relayed on our national and branch web calendars
- Developed support for branch events explaining and encouraging membership applications for Affiliates and prospective members
- Continued our Gus Astley Student Award programme and website, with successful submissions selected by the 2014 judge, Professor Jukka Jokilehto, and Annual School places and costs offered
- Maintained our conservation course ‘recognition’ programme, and continued our sector support with the second ‘Conservation Course Connection Day’
- Extended our ‘State of the Sector’ analysis through the continuing survey of England’s local authority conservation services, complemented by a research workshop into building-related historic environment research in planning
- Enhanced the profile and operation of inter-disciplinary skills in conservation through introducing and developing our new Associate level of membership.

HELPING CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS

- Enhanced support for specialists seeking full IHBC membership, including refining pre-registration assessment, online listings of accredited members, and laying the groundwork for our new membership category of Associates
- Introduced an ‘experimental evolution’ of our governance under the ‘IHBC+’ banner, to enhance trustee oversight and enrich practitioner input and benefits at all career levels
- Supported the recognition and operation of professional standards across our membership by:
 - continuing our successful promotion and testing of CPD
 - operating and developing disciplinary procedures
- Enhanced membership services and benefits including:
 - extending online and digital access to benefits and member support
 - promoting and extending membership on the IHBC’s list of specialist conservation practices, ‘HESPR’, including on-line and at key events
- Reviewed our Corporate Plan 2010–15, agreed across our membership in 2010, recording some 90 per cent of targets as achieved or partially achieved
- Agreed our new Corporate Plan 2015–20, or ‘CP20’, adopting it at our AGM in Norwich.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The gross resources arising in the year amounted to £417,657 (2014: £376,343). Overall, the charity's incoming resources exceeded its expenditure by £38,627 (2014: £24,228). This reflects a strong performance given the wider downturn, with increased income across the board, not least from our charitable activities. At the period end the charity had free reserves of £303,902 (2014: £266,068). Free reserves constitute unrestricted funds not represented by fixed assets. The charity's reserves are sufficient to maintain levels well within our reserves policy of six months of expenditure.

Recognising the healthy reserves and positive signs of growth in the economy, the trustees are allocating excess reserves to aid investment in growth, services and member benefits, through the agreement to appointment of an additional staff member, supporting and freeing-up the new LETS Liaison Officer, all with a view to underpinning and generating growth in the IHBC.

GOING CONCERN

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in our Accounting Policies.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The plans of the IHBC in the near future are encapsulated in our Corporate Plan 2015-20, 'CP20' approved at the IHBC's 2015 Annual General Meeting, and for the following years these will focus on concluding the most important current and outstanding actions. These include:

- extending support for our membership and across the sector
- raising the profile of the institute, including in research, business and training
- delivering on the conclusion of our governance review, in line with our agenda for IHBC+, and including our continuing support for enhanced trustee oversight and member representation
- developing the infrastructure and profile of our trade operations with IHBC Enterprises.

This report is based on that approved by the trustees on 25 February 2016 and signed on their behalf, by Mike Brown, IHBC chair and trustee, and Kathryn Davies, vice chair.

SUMMARISED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating income and expenditure account) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

	Unrestricted Funds 2015	Unrestricted Funds 2014
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Incoming resources from generated funds:		
Activities for generating funds	10,152	12,574
Investment income	83,599	79,741
Incoming resources from charitable activities	323,906	284,028
Total incoming resources	<u>417,657</u>	<u>376,343</u>
Resources expended		
Costs of generating funds		
Generating voluntary income	5,660	5,931
Charitable expenditure		
Charitable activities	138,657	142,925
Governance costs	234,713	203,259
Total resources expended	<u>379,030</u>	<u>352,115</u>
Net income for the year	38,627	24,228
Total funds at 1 October 2014	<u>276,068</u>	<u>251,840</u>
Total funds at 30 September 2015	<u>314,695</u>	<u>276,068</u>

All activities derive from continuing operations.

For the year ended 30 September 2015 all incoming and outgoing resources were unrestricted funds.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

	2015	2014
	£	£
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	793	–
Investments	10,000	10,000
	<u>10,793</u>	<u>10,000</u>
Current assets		
Cash at bank	251,129	217,864
Debtors	83,902	82,560
	<u>335,031</u>	<u>300,424</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(31,129)	(34,356)
Net current assets	<u>303,902</u>	<u>266,068</u>
Total net assets	<u>314,695</u>	<u>276,068</u>
Unrestricted funds	<u>314,695</u>	<u>276,068</u>

These summarised accounts are an extract from the statutory annual report and accounts for the financial year ended 30 September 2015 which have been subject to an Independent Examiners' report issued by Larking Gowen, chartered accountants.

Larking Gowen has confirmed to the board that the summarised accounts are consistent with the annual report and accounts for the year ended 30 September 2015.

These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to gain a complete understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. The full annual accounts, the council's report and the Independent Examiners' report on those accounts may be obtained from Lydia Porter at the IHBC Business Office, email admin@ihbc.org.uk.

The financial statements were approved by the board on 26 February 2016 and signed on its behalf by Mike Brown, chair and trustee, and Kathryn Davies, vice chair.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS AND RATIFICATION OF BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE NOMINATIONS

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

The following nominations have been received at the registered office of The Institute of Historic Building Conservation:

Chair

James Caird
standing for election

Vice Chair

Kathryn Davies
standing for re-election

Treasurer

Richard Morrice
standing for re-election

Education Secretary

Bridget Turnbull
standing for election

Policy Secretary

Roy Lewis
standing for election

Membership Secretary

David Kincaid
standing for election

Communications & Outreach Secretary

Dave Chetwyn
standing for election

IHBC Secretary

Jo Evans
standing for re-election

RATIFICATION OF BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE NOMINATIONS

At the time of going to press, the following members have been nominated by their branches as representatives on council. The meeting needs to confirm their nomination:

Scotland

Jane Jackson

Northern Ireland

Jill Kerry

Wales

John Edwards

North

nomination pending

North West

Crispin Edwards

Yorkshire

Matthew Bentley

East Midlands

Roy Lewis

West Midlands

nomination pending

South West

James Webb

South

Julia Foster

South East

Sanne Roberts

East Anglia

David Andrews

London

Sheila Stones

MOTIONS TO THE AGM

Motions to the Annual General Meeting must be made in writing to the secretary in the names of a proposer and seconder, both to be full members, at least 28 full days prior to the AGM.

Full details of the institute's AGM procedures are contained within Section 5 of the Articles of Association of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (see under About IHBC, Business Papers, on the IHBC website).

At the time of printing these papers no motion has been received at the institute's offices.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INSTITUTE OF HISTORIC BUILDING CONSERVATION 2015

Held at Open, 20 Bank Plain, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 4SF on
Friday 19 June 2015

Chair: Trefor Thorpe, IHBC President

Present

Peter Aiers	Phil Godwin	John Preston
Jennifer Austin	Torsten Haak	Kati Preston
Lauren Ayers	Charmain Hawkins	Stephen Rickards
Kathryn Banfield	Tom Hunter	Amanda Rix
Chris Bennett	Jane Jackson	Cheryl Roberts
David Blackburn	Regina Jaszynski	Jane Roylance
Nathan Blanchard	Heather Jermy	John Ruddy
Elizabeth Blood	Kate Kendall	Tom Rumley
Christian Brady	Bob Kindred	Michael Scammell
Jules Brown	Michael Knights	Jonathan Smith
Lorraine Brown	Lone Le Vay	Prue Smith
Mike Brown	Roy Lewis	Sheila Stones
Paul Butler	David Lovie	Charles Strang
Lucie Carayon	Patrick Maguire	Thomas Street
Francesca Cipolla	Alison McCandlish	Sarah Sullivan
Jason Clemmons	Andrew McClelland	Adam Swan
Alison Cummings	Mike McConnell	Jonathan Taylor
Alison Davidson	David McDonald	Trefor Thorpe
Kathryn Davies	Steven McLeish	Emily Tracey
Malcolm Dickson	Pozy Metz	Nicole Twort
David Edleston	Fiona Newton	Alice Ullathorne
John Edwards	Shaun Norman	Ramona Usher
Jo Evans	Sean O'Reilly	Rosamund Worrall
Julia Foster	Rachael Parry	John Yates
Roger France	Robert Platts	
Rachel Godden	Lydia Porter	

1 Apologies for absence

Margaret Barnes	Zoe Hill	Sean Rix
David Birkett	Ben Hogg	Dennis Rodwell
Stephen Bradwell	Ann Johnson	Michael Rowan
Richenda Codling	David Jump	Geoff Underwood
Anne Davies	David Kincaid	Mark Watson
Ron Douglas	Liz Mayle	James Webb
Chris Hawkins	Deborah Mays	Stuart West
David Hayes	Jonathan Ratter	

2 Minutes of the AGM held on Friday 6 June 2014 and matters arising

The minutes were circulated prior to the meeting with the council's report and the accounts. The minutes were proposed by Prue Smith, seconded by Sheila Stones and accepted by the meeting as an accurate record. The president, Trefor Thorpe (TT), then signed the minutes

3 Council's report

Mike Brown (MB) referred the meeting to the report in the circulated papers. There were no questions.

The report was proposed by Prue Smith, seconded by David Blackburn and agreed by the meeting.

4 Accounts for 2013–2014

The treasurer, Richard Morrice (RM), was unable to attend the meeting so the accounts section of the papers was introduced by Sean O'Reilly (SOR). The full accounts were available for examination in the papers but no requests were received. There were no questions.

Under Resolution 1 the accounts were recommended to the meeting, the approval of which was proposed by David Lovie, seconded by Amanda Rix and agreed by the meeting.

Under Resolution 2 the appointment of Larking Gowen Chartered Accountants as independent examiners was recommended, the approval of which was proposed by Julia Foster, seconded by James Caird and agreed by the meeting.

5 Election of officers

There was one change to the list of officers as Emilia McDonald (EM) was stepping down as vice chair and Kathryn Davies has been nominated to fill that role. EM had been very active during her time in the role and the meeting expressed its thanks to her. All other officers were standing for re-election.

With this change in place the posts of chair, vice chair, treasurer, education secretary, policy secretary, membership secretary, communications and outreach secretary and secretary to the IHBC were voted for *en bloc*, and were proposed by Nathan Blanchard, seconded by John Yates and agreed by the meeting.

6 Ratification of branch nominations

The nominations of branch representatives who are also trustees were also listed in the AGM papers. This meeting confirms the nominations by each branch AGM. There had been no nomination for North and there were three changes. For the Scotland branch Stuart Eydmann was stepping down and Jane Jackson had been nominated and for the Northern Ireland branch, which had been vacant, Jill Kerry had been nominated and for the West Midlands branch Charles Shapcott was stepping down and Chris Partrick had been nominated. The nominations were dealt with *en bloc*, and were proposed by John Preston, seconded by Torsten Haak and agreed by the meeting.

7 Motions to the AGM

There was one motion to the AGM and that was to adopt the IHBC Corporate Plan 2015-20 (CP20). This had been circulated via NewsBlog and was available on the IHBC website (<http://ihbconline.co.uk/newsarchive/?p=10136>). SOR said this was a live document that can be adapted and amended as the trustees feel is necessary during the life of the document.

The motion to adopt the IHBC Corporate Plan 2015-20 (CP20) was proposed by David Lovie, seconded by Jonathan Smith and agreed by the meeting.

This completed the official business of the Annual General Meeting. This was followed by an open discussion.

8 Other business

- 8.1 John Yates raised concern about the loss of conservation provision within local authorities and the need to defend against further losses. He also

felt that new ways of filling the vacuum need to emerge perhaps through specifically trained volunteers, management planning and a specific non-professional category of membership 'friends of IHBC'. Mike Brown (MB) responded by saying that the idea of a 'friends' category was interesting and that accreditation issues were already being discussed with other professional bodies for recognised specialist conservation professionals. The decline in the public sector is getting worse and this is now impacting on colleagues in archaeology as well, but it would seem that the new government's priorities do not include heritage. He said IHBC is particularly concerned about those LPAs with no available heritage expertise where there was zero input into planning decisions and that it is becoming increasingly obvious that, for want of support from the public purse, owners and developers will increasingly have to pay for conservation expertise to support their applications. This will necessitate robust accreditation by the relevant professions and upskilling which the institute is actively engaged in working towards with other national and professional bodies. Sean O'Reilly said the new Corporate Plan does make reference to these issues and will be further developed.

Tom Hunter said that public conservation provision has become depleted in the Scottish Isles and has led to shared services for Orkney and the Western Islands with the possible further merging of skill-sets for both building conservation and archaeology. There was some concern that in some cases shared services are a cover for even deeper cuts. Fiona Newton (FN) said the institute had recently completed a project with Historic England looking at the shared services in authorities, but not those that had been re-organised like Cornwall. The report had been submitted to Historic England some time ago but has not been published yet. There was concern from the floor that where conservation posts have been lost or moved under planning control there is complacency in positions of power regarding heritage and misconception that any planning officer can prepare conservation statements. The institute should be contacting all local authorities to demand specialist building conservation input into all applications relating to heritage. Bob Kindred said that the institute is working with the Amenity Societies to map the cases that are referred to them against the various local authorities and their conservation staffing levels.

MB said the idea of benchmarking local authorities against a minimal service level of statutory duties and top-up level for discretionary services is being explored with colleagues in archaeology and with Historic England. There seems to be a persistent view in government that protection of the historic environment has a negative impact on development and regeneration so clear evidence and a positive advocacy (as described by Sir Laurie Magnus in his talk to the Annual School) needs to be put forward about the benefits heritage brings to all aspects of life. Trefor Thorpe (TT) said the institute's

trustees are fully aware of the depths of members concerns and is looking at a range of ways to ease the problems and get our point across to those in power.

- 8.2 TT thanked those who work tirelessly for the institute, council, branches, committees, conference organisers, who all have a part to play in making it a success. To its staff Seán O'Reilly, Fiona Newton and Lydia Porter, its consultants; Carmen Moran, Peter Badcock and Joanna Theobald, James Caird, Alison McCandlish, Bob Kindred, Deborah Mays, Rob Cowan and its publishers Cathedral Communications.
- 8.3 Finally TT said this was his last formal occasion as president. His time in office had been a huge honour and at times very challenging but he had had a great time and he thanked the institute for its faith in him. A successor, which is an appointment made by the trustees, had been sought and a name had come forward – David McDonald – and this would be considered at the next meeting of trustees in September.

The meeting closed at 6.00pm.

