



**Meeting notes of a Council Meeting of the Institute of Historic Building
Conservation held virtually via Zoom
on Tuesday 27 February 2023, starting at 4.00pm
Chair: Mike Brown, IHBC President**

Present

Hiba	Alkhalaf	Andre	Mangion
Christopher	Arukwe	Felix	Mayle
Daniel	Ayre	Liz	Mayle
Michael	Brown	Alison	McCandlish
Clare	Chapman	David	McDonald
Christopher	Collison	Kim	Miller
Trish	Connolly	Kathryn	Moore
John	Copping	Russell	Morris
Lorna	Crane	Don	Murphy
Elizabeth	Da	Sarah	Neville
Alison	Davidson	Fiona	Newton
Louisa	Davidson	Shaun	Norman
Zinnie	Denby-Mann	Maria	Ogden
David	Edleston	Sean	O'Reilly
Shannon	Edwards	John	Peverley
Lynsay	Ewart	Nicola	Pickering
Elizabeth	Feakes	Thomas	Piggott
Anthony	Garratt	Stuart	Robinson
Anna	Goldrin	Joanna	Saady
Angharad	Hart	Illan	Santos
Paul	Hartley	Sue	Smith
Lisa	Harvey	Alexandra	Starritt
Michelle	Harvey	Kevin	Stubbs
Peter	Hayes	Shantanu	Subramaniam
Alison	Henry	Adam	Swan
Judy	Hewitt	Hannah	Taylor
Rachel	Higgs	Rose	Todd
Jo	Horton	Geoff	Underwood
David	Houltby	John-Paul	Walker
Thomas	Hunter	Mark	Watson
Trisha	Jean-Marie	James	Webb
Shona	Johnston	Simon	Went
Lynda	Jubb	Jenny	Wetton
Selin	Karsan	Jude	Wheeler
Bill	Katakya	David	Williams
Lone	Le Vay	Ben	Williscroft
Roy	Lewis	Thomas	Winter
Ailsa	Macfarlane	Neli	Zhecheva-Goodwin

Apologies for absence

Nabeela	Ameen	Andy	O'Neil
Emine Nazan	Avkovan	Daryl	Page
Paul	Beckett	Stephanie	Parsons
Matt	Bentley	Helen	Parvin
Jayne	Boldy	Komal	Patil
Chris	Bowes	Andrew	Pettifor
Kevin	Clark	Mara	Popescu
Matthew	Crook	Alice	Porter
Louis	Curtis	Stewart	Ramsdale
Kathryn	Davies	Amy	Ridding
Nicola	Dyer	Sanne	Roberts
Caroline	Edwards	Ranjit	Sagoo
Boyanna	Elks	Shona	Simpson
Rebecca	Eng	Nick	Stops
David	Farrington	Alfie	Stroud
Julia	Fister	Melisa	Thomas
Ken	Hannah	Rebecca	Thompson
Katherine	Harrison	Kevin	Toner
Sarah	John	Xiao-lu	Wang
Nicole	Jones	Iain	Whittick
David	Lomas	Clara	Willett
Fan	Lorrillard	Chris	Wood
kathryn	Melhuish	Michael	Wood
Maria	Morris	Samantha	Wood
Carolyn	O'Neil	Ziting	Xiong
Leonora	O'Brien	Maria	Yioutani-Iacovides
Paul	O'Loughlin		

Introductions & Minutes of Council meeting on 30 March 2023

Mike Brown (President) opened the meeting reminding attendees that the papers are available via a download and links in the chat facility. The minutes of the last council meeting held on 30 March 2023 had been circulated any objections were invited via the online chat. No objections were received so the minutes were adopted as a record of the discussions.

Next steps in exploring a Charter: Review of a resolution to the 2024 AGM

[DRAFT-'Covering-Report'-informing-a-Resolution-to-the-IHBC-2024-AGM-v140224-FINAL.pdf](#)

David McDonald (Chair) said informal contact with other organisations had been made, some are not aware of the multidisciplinary nature of IHBC and that about half of members are in the private sector. He went through a set of slides that have been developed to explain IHBC and give more information to outside organisations on what chartering is about and what the benefits might be. This will go alongside a short briefing note for organisations. It was suggested that some smart art would help bring the slides to life. Geoff Underwood suggested

the slide headed 'what's in it for them' needs to be enhanced particularly where there might, be or perceived to be, a cross over.

Kathryn Moore asked if informal engagement had been positive? DMcD noted that there had been no adverse comments or conversations so far from other organisations. Simon Went asked what the post nominal letters would be. DMcD said this was as yet undecided and so open to discussion as a re-branding exercise would be needed. MB suggested that change in post nominals be kept simple (example IfA became CIfA), a decision would have to be made at the point where a petition is submitted to the PCO. Mark Watson cautioned against the loss of sector wide recognition with a change in name (eg HS change to HES).

Presentations on the possible course to chartership have been made to branches and most of the feedback has been positive, with the most common question being 'will subscriptions go up?'. DMcD said that other than the usual inflationary increase in subscriptions there should be no effect from the exploration and, if the members want it, proceeding to chartership. IHBC had been advised by the PCO that firstly an organisation would need to be chartered before any consideration is given to chartering its individual members.

The next step would be to submit a memorandum to the Privy Council Office (PCO), this needs the backing of members, so the resolution shown below will come to the AGM on 30 April 2024.

That the IHBC Board submit a memorandum (informally referred to as a 'Letter of Intent') to the Privy Council Office as described in the covering report submitted to the AGM, to determine any prospective barriers to and/or requirements arising in any Petition, and return to the membership with recommendations and guidance as appropriate.

Comments were invited on the resolution and its wording. This is asking the membership for permission to submit a memorandum, the PCO would then come back with comments. Further stages would be brought to a General or Annual General Meeting to get the approval of members.

Alison Davidson asked what the timescale would be for coming back to members? DMcD said this would depend on how quickly the PCO can process the memorandum, if it raised questions and if there were any sticking points. It is an unknown, but DMcD hoped within a year.

Kathryn Moore asked if there are any planned changes to the process of becoming an IHBC member if/when chartership is granted? We don't think so, unless the PCO asks for it.

Christopher Arukwe asked about the process of integrating individuals who are registered but reside outside of the United Kingdom. He would appreciate guidance on how to effectively include these individuals in our operations or activities. DMcD noted that as the first stage is to register the organisation as a whole, he doesn't think being outside the UK would be an issue. At a later stage should the IHBC want to register individual members then this would need to be looked at for members who are overseas.

DMcD asked attendees that if there were any major concerns to please feed those back as soon as possible. It seemed to be, from the comments made so far, the meeting was generally in favour of the resolution for the AGM on 30 April.

Annual School, Reading – 12 - 15 June 2024

[IHBC Annual School 2024 - Reading](#)

The website has now gone live, with the theme being "Place & Building Care – Finance, policy and people in conservation practice". The new Chair of English Heritage Board of Trustees, Gerard Lemos, will give the opening address of the Day School on Friday 14 June, booking is now open.

Heritage and conservation: Lessons in the machinery of central government

IHBC's future political engagement – moving on from the Conservation, Places and People All Party Parliamentary Group (CPP APPG)

Lone Le Vay (IHBC Vice Chair) said the IHBC has been supporting an All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for some time, this is now in flux due to a missed AGM and changes in rules around these groups. The Chair of the group, James Grundy MP, is keen to keep the group going in some capacity. More information will become available in due course. Sean O'Reilly said IHBC was looking to engage more with parliaments in the devolved nations as well.

Getting the opportunity to 'speak truth to power' – engaging with the Scottish Government from Alisa Macfarlane, Director, BEFS

Alisa noted that while she deals with Scotland the practice of engagement is not necessarily Scotland specific and can apply to engagement with any government. BEFS is a third sector strategic intermediary body which draws together extensive expertise and knowledge on Scotland's historic and contemporary environment in a membership-led forum. It looks to make an impact on policy by providing clarity, information and knowledge in a helpful and positive way through building positive relationships with civil service teams to assist stakeholders get their views heard. Ministers change but the relationships with civil service are more stable and good ministers do take a lead from their civil service teams. Responding to consultations in a helpful and informative way is important to becoming recognised as a trusted source of information. This may then lead to being invited to provide further information at government committees and provide briefing papers. This also allows for follow ups and maybe more information being fed into an issue. It is important not to complain about what's not happened but instead make constructive comments.

It can be helpful to research the background of ministers to understand where their interests lie and the angle they may take to their role. BEFS also works with the Scottish Parliament Information Service which provides impartial, factual, accurate information and analysis to Members in support of Scottish Parliament parliamentary business. This helps to understand what business is coming up and how to pitch and argument to best effect while bearing in mind the need to be constructive and not obstructive, polite and get any negative comments across in a helpful way. Cross party groups can be a way to meet members but these groups can be difficult to engage with.

BEFS also monitors questions that are asked in Parliament and these are included in its regular bulletin, this helps to understand where interest lies and also criticisms too.

BEFS - www.befs.org.uk

BEFS Members - <https://www.befs.org.uk/about-befs/members/>

Sustainable Investment tool - www.sitool.co.uk

Scottish Parliament Information Service -

<https://spice-spotlight.scot/>

Tenement Maintenance video is on this page -

<https://www.befs.org.uk/policy-topics/buildings-maintenance-2/>

Advocacy toolkit -

<https://www.befs.org.uk/resources/advocacy-toolkit/>

Culture and Heritage Manifesto -

<https://www.befs.org.uk/latest/culture-and-heritage-manifesto-for-local-government/>

Sign-up to BEFS newsletter

<https://befs.us10.list->

[manage.com/subscribe/post?u=5ff5cbf27087a00bd9eec1b1a&id=56a3992b07](https://befs.us10.list-manage.com/subscribe/post?u=5ff5cbf27087a00bd9eec1b1a&id=56a3992b07)

Questions and reflections on discussions

Kathryn Moore noted that in Wales the key conduit up to the Senedd has been through the Historic Environment Group which has not tended to yield helpful discourse so far - often it seems to be a cursory way for government to tell us what is coming rather than a two-way discussion. She is interested to know how BEFS is funded and whether there can be a similar group in Cymru! Alisa said that BEFS funding is mainly through Historic Environment Scotland and membership fees. It also had developed, with HLF, a strong business thread as government funding might not always be there. What BEFS delivers is intangible so hard to quantify. In England the Heritage Alliance is a similar organisation but different.

MB thanked Alisa for her presentation which was interesting and to those that had raised questions.

The Institute's Annual General Meeting will be held on 30 April 2024 and MB urged members to attend, more information will be sent in due course.

Close and date of next meeting

The date of the next two meetings are 11 July and 16 October 2024.

It is hoped for the July meeting that Lizzie Glithero-West, Chief Executive at the Heritage Alliance, will speak about the work it does with politicians.

The meeting closed at 5.23pm