



ENGLISH HERITAGE

# Commission

## **Minutes of the 228<sup>th</sup> meeting held at 8.30am on 18 January 2006 at Guildhall, Winchester**

**Commissioners present:** Sir Neil Cossons – Chairman  
Ms Maria Adebawale  
Mrs Joyce Bridges CBE  
Mr Bill Bryson  
Mr Manish Chande  
Lord Douro OBE  
Mrs Gilly Drummond  
Mr Piers Gough CBE  
Dr Jane Grenville  
Mr Michael Jolly CBE  
Lord Leicester CBE  
Mr Les Sparks OBE  
Ms Elizabeth Williamson

**Observer:** Professor Barry Cunliffe

**Staff present for meeting:** Dr Simon Thurley – Chief Executive  
Mr Steve Bee – Director of Planning and Development  
Mr Michael Crich – Director of Resources  
Mr John Fidler – Conservation Director (for item 2 only)  
Dr Edward Impey – Director of Research and Standards  
Ms Deborah Lamb – Director of Policy and Communications  
Mr Mark Pemberton – Director of Properties and Outreach  
Mr David Burgh – Commission Secretariat Manager

**Also present:** Mr Paul Drury (for item 2 only)  
Mr Rupert Hambro (for item 3 only)

### **Item 1 – Apologies and Declarations of Interest**

#### Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Mr Michael Cairns and Professor David Cannadine.

### Announcements

- 1.2 The Chairman welcomed Professor Barry Cunliffe to the meeting. Professor Cunliffe should shortly be taking up the post of English Heritage Commissioner and was attending this meeting as an observer.
- 1.3 The Chairman also announced that Ms Jane Kennedy should also be appointed as a Commissioner shortly, but was unable to attend the meeting.

### Declarations of Interest

- 1.4 Declarations of interest were received from:
  - Lord Douro in respect of his residence at Apsley House; and
  - Lord Leicester as a friend of the owner of Combermere Abbey.

### **Item 2 – Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance (CP 2006/1/E)**

- 2.1 *This item is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 22: information intended for future publication.*
- 2.2 Commissioners considered a report on progress towards the development of the *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance*.

### **Item 3 – Chiswick House (Oral)**

- 3.1 The Director of Properties and Outreach briefed Commission on recent developments, with the assistance of Rupert Hambro, the Chairman of the Chiswick House and Gardens Trust. The House was Grade 1 listed and an English Heritage property while the park and gardens, also listed Grade 1 and as important historically as the building, were owned by the London Borough of Hounslow (LBH).
- 3.2 LBH lacked the resources to maintain the park and gardens. The Chiswick House and Gardens Trust had been formed to manage both the house and gardens and as a vehicle to seek funding. A bid for £8 million had been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund with £4million being sought from other sources, and a decision on this bid was expected on 24 January. LBH had given a commitment to support the project along with an annual sum of £200k for maintenance, while English Heritage had already contributed £500k to the work and undertaken to fund operational losses that might arise in the long term. In the event that HLF funding for the grounds was not obtained it might be necessary to dissolve the Trust.
- 3.3 **Commission noted the current position of the Chiswick House Trust and the HLF bid.**

**Item 4 – Open Minutes of the 227<sup>th</sup> Meeting: 7 December 2005 (CP 2006/2)**

- 4.1 The Commission agreed the open minutes of the 227<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting held on 7 December 2005, subject to a minor amendment, to be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**Item 5 – Exempt Minutes of the 227<sup>th</sup> Meeting: 7 December 2005 (CP 2005/3/E)**

- 5.1 The Commission agreed the exempt minutes of the 227<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting held on 7 December 2005, to be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**Item 6 – Matters Arising**

- 6.1 There were no matters arising.

**Item 7 – Committee minutes**

**Remuneration Committee minutes (Open and Exempt) – 7 December 2005 (CP 2006/4 and 2006/5/E)**

- 7.1 Mr Michael Jolly, the Chairman of the Remuneration Committee reported on the minutes of the meeting. In the light of the major changes in English Heritage over the last few years there were a range of issues which needed to be addressed to make the organisation fit for the future. These included remuneration and a range of other components of staff benefits to aid recruitment and retention. English Heritage needed to improve its ability to attract and retain high calibre staff.
- 7.2 Commission noted and endorsed the open and exempt minutes of the Remuneration Committee meeting held on 7 December 2005.

**Item 8 – Chairman's Report (oral)**

- 8.1 The Chairman reported on his address to the All Party Arts and Heritage Group, with the Chief Executive, on the theme of *Heritage Counts*. The talk had been well received by the Group which had comprised members of both Houses and the three major parties.
- 8.2 Commissioners were invited to express their preferences for a number of elements of a training programme, which was being funded by DCMS and which would be held for the first time on 15 February. A second event would be held to enable Commissioners unavailable on this date to attend. Access and inclusion issues would be addressed in all these topics.

### **8.3 Commission noted the Chairman's report.**

#### **Item 9 – Chief Executive's Report (oral)**

9.1 *This item is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 22: information intended for future publication.*

9.2 The Chief Executive reported on his recent activities, including the following:

- invitation to join a group of Chief Executives to consider the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007, to be chaired by Nicholas Holgate, Chief Operating Officer, DCMS. All major areas of DCMS activity were represented in this key project to seek a suitable financial allocation from HM Treasury;
- hosting the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall at an event at Apethorpe Hall. The meeting and lunch had been very helpful with the programme for the day featuring craft skills and training schemes.
- a programme of lunch meetings with amenity societies and academic interest groups as well as MPs and opinion formers. Feedback on English Heritage had been very positive.

### **9.5 Commission noted the Chief Executive's report.**

#### **Item 10 – Financial Overview: December 2005 (CP 2006/6/E)**

10.1 *This item is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 43: commercial interests.*

10.2 The Commission considered English Heritage's financial results for the nine months up to December 2005.

#### **Item 11 – Funding Agreement (CP 2006/7/E)**

11.1 *The appendixes to this item are potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 22: information intended for future publication.*

11.2 The Commission considered a draft Funding Agreement for the period 2005/06 – 2007/08, which was still being finalised. The agreement was English Heritage's contract with the government and illustrated what the organisation deliver for DCMS, ODPM and DEFRA in return for their financial support.

- 11.4 Commission agreed that the final version of the Funding Agreement for 2005/06-2007/08 could be approved by the Chairman and Chief Executive so that it could be signed off as soon as possible.**

**Item 12 – Relocation Progress Report (oral)**

- 12.1 *This item is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act Section 43: commercial interests.*

**Item 13 – Policy and Communications Operational Overview (CP 2006/8)**

- 13.1 *Appendix 2 to this report is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act Section 22: information intended for future publication.*
- 13.2 Commission noted the positive results of the DCMS public participation survey, and noted that a more detailed briefing would be circulated to them. Public participation in heritage was higher than in any other part of the cultural sector (the figures for sport were not comparable). A Commissioner indicated that some of English Heritage's work was seen as exemplary by organisations in outreach and education. Commission also noted that there were further amendments being made to the submission to the Select Committee into protecting, preserving and making accessible the national heritage, though the thrust of the document was warmly welcomed.
- 13.3 Commission noted the Policy and Communications Operational Overview.**

**Item 14 – Properties and Outreach Operational Overview (CP 2006/9/E)**

- 14.1 *This item is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act Section 43: commercial interests.*
- 14.2 Commission noted that Kenilworth would be included as an option as part of the March visit to the West Midlands. A report on Stonehenge would be made to the March Commission meeting and a leaflet on the proposals for the site would be circulated to Commissioners.
- 14.3 Commission noted the Properties and Outreach Operational Overview.**

**Item 15 – Research and Standards Operational Overview (CP 2006/10)**

- 15.1 Commission noted that the NMR project with the Marsh History group in Lancaster might assist in developing guidance for other community projects, such as parish plans and local characterisation work. An autumn

conference was already being arranged to help disseminate learning from English Heritage projects.

**15.2 The Commission noted the Research and Standards Operational Overview.**

**Item 16 – Resources Operational Overview (CP 2006/11)**

16.1 Commission noted that there was no Human Resources report as the Director of Human Resources had been unwell for some time. Commission wished her a speedy recovery.

**16.2 The Commission noted the Resources Operational Overview.**

**Item 17 – Planning and Development Operational Overview (CP 2006/12)**

17.1 Commission noted that the Mayor's appeal against Westminster City Council's refusal of planning permission for the location of the Nelson Mandela statue on the north terrace of Trafalgar Square had been dismissed following a public inquiry. EH staff will continue to work with all interested parties to find a suitable location for this important statue.

17.2 Commission noted that English Heritage had been given the opportunity to respond to the ODPM consultation on the Mayor's powers in London. A draft response would be considered by the London Advisory Committee on 27 January and a final version would need to be approved by Chairman's action for submission in time for the 22 February deadline.

**17.3 Commission:**

- a) **noted the Planning and Development Operational Overview;**
- b) **agreed that Chairman's action should be taken to approve the English Heritage response to consultation on the Mayor's powers in London, which would be considered by the London Advisory Committee on 27 January; and**
- c) **agreed the recommended treatment of VAT on two cases arising from the new government grant scheme for memorials.**

**Item 18 – Any Other Business**

**18.1 Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust**

Commission noted that English Heritage might be entitled to nominate a representative, or representatives to serve as trustees on the Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust. If this was possible it was agreed that a representative should be identified for this role.

**18.2 Dealing with approaches from members of the public**

Commission noted that a revised version of guidance to Commissioners on dealing with approaches from members of the public had been issued.

18.3 The meeting closed at 12.40pm

Next meeting

18.4 The next Commission meeting would be held at 8.30am on 22 March 2006 in the West Midlands.

**David Burgh  
Commission Secretariat Manager**

**January 2006**