



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Commission

Minutes of the 235th meeting held at 8.30am on 13 December 2006 at One Birdcage Walk, Westminster, London SW1

Commissioners present: Sir Neil Cossons – Chairman
Ms Maria Adebawale
Mrs Joyce Bridges CBE
Mr Bill Bryson (for part)
Mr Michael Cairns
Professor David Cannadine (for part)
Mr Manish Chande (for part)
Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe CBE
Lord Douro OBE
Mrs Gilly Drummond
Mr Piers Gough CBE (for part)
Dr Jane Grenville
Mr Michael Jolly CBE
Ms Jane Kennedy
Mr Les Sparks OBE (for part)
Mrs Elizabeth Williamson

Staff present for meeting: Dr Simon Thurley – Chief Executive
Mr Steve Bee – Director of Planning and Development
Mr Michael Crich – Director of Resources
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

Item 1 – Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Lord Leicester CBE.

Declarations of interest

1.2 Declarations of interest were received from:

- Mr Michael Cairns with regard to his membership of Lancashire Cricket Club and their relationship with Trafford MBC
- Lord Douro in respect of his residence at Apsley House.
- Ms Jane Kennedy as a partner in Purcell Miller Tritton who were undertaking work on the Whitehall streetscape (minute 7.3 refers)
- Mr Les Sparks as Chairman of Bath and North East Somerset Urban Regeneration Panel

Item 2 – Budget 2007/08 (CP 2006/99/E)

2.1 *This item is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 36: prejudice to the conduct of public affairs; and Section 43: commercial interests.*

2.2 The Chief Executive introduced a presentation on the basis for the budget for the next financial year and the period covered by the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). There were contributions from Executive Board members in relation to proposals for their own Groups.

Item 3 – Announcements

3.1 The Chairman announced that the Secretary of State had interviewed candidates for his replacement as English Heritage Chairman on 11 December.

Item 4 – Open and Exempt Minutes of the 234th Meeting: 1 November 2006 (CP 2006/100 and 101E)

4.1 Commission deferred consideration of these minutes to permit sufficient time to be taken to consider the budget in detail.

Item 5 – Notes of a joint meeting of English Heritage and CABE Commissioners: 8 November 2006 (CP 2006/102)

5.1 Commission deferred consideration of these notes to permit sufficient time to be taken to consider the budget in detail.

Item 6 – Future Commission venues

6.1 The Chairman indicated that the February Commission will include an opportunity for Commissioners to discuss destinations for future meetings

and discussion topics as part of their agenda. Since it was necessary to plan ahead, the Chairman announced that he had decided to hold the February Commission meeting in Bath and the March meeting in Chester. The February meeting would agree the locations for future Commission meetings.

Item 7 – Committee Minutes

a) EHAC minutes (open) – 16 November 2006 (CP 2006/103)

7.1 Kenilworth Garden Research (minute 5)

Commission considered the proposed project for the reconstruction of the Elizabethan garden at Kenilworth. It was necessary to do further work on this site as the project was not complete, but there were options for this development..The substantial cost of completing the project as originally planned might be met in part by appropriate sponsorship. This was one of a number of sites where presentation projects could not be justified in terms of the business case alone. English Heritage's stance in relation to such non commercial projects would need to be reviewed in the light of financial constraints.

7.2 Commission

- a) noted and endorsed the open minutes of the EHAC meeting held on 16 November 2006; and**
- b) requested that options for policy on property presentation be reported back to the February meeting.**

b) EHAC minutes (exempt) – 16 November 2006 (CP 2006/104/E)

7.3 Commission noted and endorsed the exempt minutes of the EHAC meeting held on 16 November 2006.

c) LAC minutes (open) – 17 November 2006 (CP 2006/105)

20 Fenchurch Street (minute 4.7)

7.4 Commission noted that although English Heritage had raised strong objections to this planning application for a tall building it had not sought call-in. The Secretary of State had nevertheless called in this case.

Commonwealth Institute (minute 9.4)

7.5 Commission noted that English Heritage was in a constructive dialogue with the architects for this project, Foster and Partners, and was hopeful that an appropriate balance of conservation and redevelopment could be reached.

Whitehall Streetscape Improvement Project (LAC 2006/50)

7.6 Commission noted that staff were continuing to advise on this project. The proposals to improve security for the government buildings in this area were now in the public domain and work was continuing. The opportunity was being taken to change the balance between pedestrian and traffic use of the area.

7.7 Commission agreed that Westminster City Council, the applicants and their professional team be advised that English Heritage:

- a) **acknowledges the exceptional importance of the security requirements and does not wish to raise any objection, in principle, to the applications for Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent;**
- b) **would continue to liaise with the Cabinet Office, its professional team and Westminster City Council to ensure that the details of the scheme are developed to provide the most appropriate treatment possible; and**
- c) **strongly recommends that, given the national and international significance of Whitehall, the design should be simplified to reinforce the character and appearance of the area as a whole, and minimise visual clutter.**

7.8 Commission noted and endorsed the open minutes of the LAC meeting held on 17 November 2006.

d) LAC minutes (exempt) – 17 November 2006 (CP 2006/106/E)

7.9 Commission noted and endorsed the exempt minutes of the LAC meeting held on 17 November 2006.

e) Remuneration Committee (open) – 4 October 2006 (CP 2006/107)

7.10 Commission noted and endorsed the open minutes of the Remuneration Committee meeting held on 4 October 2006.

f) Remuneration Committee (exempt) – 4 October 2006 (CP 2006/108/E)

7.11 The Chairman of the Committee highlighted and welcomed the *vital ingredients* which the Chief Executive was being encouraged to reinforce and embed within English Heritage.

7.12 Commission noted and endorsed the exempt minutes of the Remuneration Committee meeting held on 4 October 2006.

g) Audit Committee – 30 November 2006 (CP 2006/109/E)

7.13 Mr Michael Jolly, in reporting the minutes to Commission welcomed the addition of Lord Leicester to the Committee membership and noted that the initial phase of the relocation process had been undertaken very successfully.

7.14 Commission noted and endorsed the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 30 November 2006.

h) Stonehenge Committee – 21 November 2006 (CP 2006/110/E)

7.15 Commission noted and endorsed the minutes of the Stonehenge Committee meeting held on 21 November 2006.

Item 8 – Chairman’s Report (oral)

8.1 The Chairman highlighted his engagements in recent months, and in particular the dedication ceremony for the New Zealand memorial at Hyde Park Corner and the Paul Mellon lecture in New York. With regard to the memorial, English Heritage had worked very closely with the New Zealand High Commission and Westminster City Council to secure a design which delivered a key part of our wider masterplan for Hyde Park Corner. Helen Clark, the New Zealand Prime Minister, had been generous in her praise of English Heritage’s role in this project.

8.2 The Chairman reported that he had given the annual Paul Mellon Lecture, entitled *Stonehenge: a Prehistoric Mystery in the 21st Century* at the Morgan Library in New York on 27 November at the invitation of the World Monuments Fund and the Royal Oak Foundation. Commission noted that there might be some scope for fundraising in the USA, but that any proposed initiative should be deferred until there was more clarity on proposals for Stonehenge.

8.3 The Chairman had also opened English Heritage’s evidence at the appeal hearing on the Stonehenge visitor centre planning application.

8.4 Commission noted the Chairman’s report.

Item 9 – Chief Executive’s Report – open (CP 2006/111)

Heritage Protection

9.1 The Chief Executive reported that the first meeting of the working group would take place following the Commission meeting and it had been suggested that though this meeting would be relatively informal, it would be helpful to agree some terms of reference.

9.2 Commission agreed the terms of reference of the Heritage Protection Working Group.

English Heritage Disability Equality Scheme

9.3 Commissioners were invited to comment on this scheme to the Chief Executive or the Commission Secretariat Manager.

9.4 Commission endorsed the English Heritage Disability Equality Scheme appended to the Chief Executive's report.

Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd

9.5 Commission agreed that the Founder Members' Agreement of Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd be signed as a deed by the Head of Legal Department on behalf of English Heritage.

Temple of Mithras

9.6 Commission agreed that English Heritage be a party to the s.106 Agreement to re-site the remains of the Temple of Mithras.

9.7 The Chief Executive also highlighted a number of other points including:

- A policy forum had been established comprising senior DCMS officials and Executive Board members. This had just met for the first time and provided a useful opportunity to consider strategic issues
- The appointment of a new Relocation Director, Isobel Beaumont, who would take up the post in the New Year.
- *Your Place or Mine?* a major national conference and the first of its kind, led by English Heritage's Outreach Team, had focused on engaging new audiences with heritage. This had taken place in Manchester on 2 and 3 November and had been very well received.

9.8 Commission noted the open Chief Executive's report.

Item 10 – Chief Executive’s Report – exempt (CP 2006/112/E)

10.1 *This item is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 36: prejudice to the conduct of public affairs and Section 43: commercial interests.*

10.2 Commission noted the exempt Chief Executive’s report.

Item 11 – Deferred items

11.1 Commission deferred discussion of three reports to permit sufficient time to be taken to consider the budget in detail. The reports would be considered at the February Commission meeting:

- **External Investment Strategy (CP 2006/113)**
- **Blue Plaques Scheme (CP 2006/114)**
- **Financial Overview: November 2006 (CP 2006/115/E)**

Item 12 – Any Other Business

12.1 The meeting closed at 12.45

Next meetings

12.2 The next Commission meeting will be at 8.30am on 7 February in Bath, at a venue to be agreed.

**David Burgh
Commission Secretariat Manager**

December 2006

Signed (Chairman)

Date