



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Commission

Minutes of the 225th meeting held at 8.30am on 21 September 2005 at Feversham Arms Hotel, Helmsley, Yorkshire

Commissioners present: Sir Neil Cossons – Chairman
Ms Maria Adebawale
Mrs Joyce Bridges CBE
Mr Bill Bryson
Mr Michael Cairns
Professor David Cannadine
Mr Manish Chande
Mrs Gilly Drummond
Dr Jane Grenville
Mr Les Sparks OBE
Mrs Elizabeth Williamson

Staff present for meeting: Dr Simon Thurley – Chief Executive
Mr Steve Bee – Director of Planning and Development
Mr John Fidler – Conservation Director (part)
Dr Edward Impey – Director of Research and Standards
Mr David Kuenssberg – Finance Director
Ms Deborah Lamb – Director of Policy and Communications
Mr Mark Pemberton – Director of Properties and Outreach
Mr Tim Reeve – Property Development & Operations Director
Dr Christopher Young – Head of World Heritage and International Policy (part)
Mr David Burgh – Commission Secretariat Manager

Also present: Mr Joel Levy, Philip Gould Associates
Mr Paul Drury, Paul Drury Partnership

Item 1 – Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Lord Douro OBE, Mr Piers Gough CBE, Mr Michael Jolly CBE, Lord Leicester CBE and Mr Michael Crich.

Declarations of Interest

1.2 Mr Les Sparks declared interests in relation to:

- Tall buildings in London, having chaired a CABE Design Review Panel on one of the buildings concerned and facilitated workshops for the London Borough of Southwark for their area development framework which would impact upon such buildings; and
- Historic environment issues in Nottingham, as an advisor to the City Council.

In both cases the Chairman agreed he could remain in the room but take no part in the discussion.

Item 2 – European fact finding report (CP 2005/58/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 the findings of the Chief Executive's research into heritage bodies in Europe.

Item 3 – English Heritage International Research & Strategy (CP 2005/59)

3.1 Commissioners considered recommendations relating to English Heritage's international strategy and overseas involvement, and to best practice within England.

3.2 Commission:

- a) **endorsed the following measures recommended by the Chief Executive in his report (CP 2005/58/E):**

International Activities

EH should

- (i) **conclude cooperation protocols with five countries for periods of four years;**
- (ii) **hold in 2006 a symposium for heads of European national heritage agencies to develop strategies for raising political consciousness of heritage;**
- (iii) **undertake with Historic Scotland a series of detailed benchmarking projects and seek to develop international ones on GIS and other projects this year;**

Proposed modifications to EH policy in England

- (iv) After discussion, EH should consider the possibility of a new category of designation commemorating site of historic events of exceptional national importance within the context of Heritage Protection Review (HPR);**
 - (v) The Director of Planning and Development should develop proposals for setting up an independent expert committee to advise on complex and controversial new designations to the Historic Protection Register;**
 - (vi) EH should further develop the case for modifying tax regimes to encourage conservation of historic structures, drawing on models from other European countries as appropriate;**
 - (vii) EH should reinvigorate the flat VAT campaign;**
 - (viii) EH should find sponsorship for a regular newsletter for owners of designated properties, with the first issue published early next year;**
 - (ix) EH should strictly enforce grant conditions for the display of sign-boards to ensure prominent site credit for EH grants, and also proclaim our investment in our own sites in the same way;**
 - (x) EH should develop guidance manuals and training events on the care of Places of Worship (POW) as part of our POW Strategy.**
- b) agreed that the goals of English Heritage's international strategy, implemented through policy and advocacy, projects of mutual benefit and staff development should be to:**
- (i) use our international involvement to improve our ability to meet priority objectives within England;**
 - (ii) support government (including DCMS) international objectives within our resource constraints;**
 - (iii) further consider exploitation of intellectual property rights and consultancy overseas;**
 - (iv) continue to raise awareness of English Heritage internationally;**
 - (v) continue to improve English Heritage's internal coordination of international activity.**

- c) **endorsed the detailed targets related to strategic goals set out in Appendix 1 to CP 2005/59.**

Item 4 – Stakeholder Research Survey: presentation by Joel Levy, Philip Gould Associates (Oral)

4.1 Joel Levy of Philip Gould Associates gave a presentation on the findings of the second stakeholder survey, providing an opportunity to compare findings with the benchmarks from the initial work undertaken last year.

4.2 For the most part, changes in perception of English Heritage were small and not statistically significant. There were some positive indications such as the view that the organisation had become more consumer friendly and less bureaucratic and a significant improvement in perceptions about communication. However there was some polarisation of attitudes and a slight negative trend on some issues. This may have been a result, in part, of the publication of critical stories in the national press at the time of the survey.

4.3 In discussing the presentation Commissioners noted that with a sample size of under 100 a relatively small change in attitudes would result in a considerable shift in the figures. This was particularly the case in a small sample of representatives of the Historic Houses Association, who had been surveyed for the first time this year in response to a request from Commission.

4.4 Commission also noted that:

- consistent trends would only be evident after the surveys had been conducted for several years;
- some of the negative views that had been expressed might relate to the reorganisation of Planning and Development and more positive trends might emerge now the modernisation process was bedding down; and
- there was a need to present English Heritage as a confident modern organisation and move away from the image of an embattled body which might result in negative perceptions.

4.5 Commission:

a) NOTED the report; and

b) AGREED that the presentation should be circulated to Commissioners.

Item 5 – Further development of Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance (CP 2005/60/E)

- 5.1 *This item is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 22: information intended for future publication.*
- 5.2 The Commission considered an update on progress towards developing *Conservation Principles, Policy and Guidance*.

Item 6 – Tall Buildings in London (CP 2005/61/E)

- 6.1 *This item is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 43: commercial interests.*
- 6.2 Commissioners considered a report on tall buildings in London.

Item 7 – Announcements

- 7.1 There were no announcements.

Item 8 – Open Minutes of the 224th Meeting: 20 July 2005 (CP 2005/62)

- 8.1 **The Commission agreed the open minutes of the 224th Commission meeting held on 20 July 2005, to be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

Item 9 – Exempt Commission Minutes of the 224th Meeting: 20 July 2005 (CP 2005/63/E)

- 9.1 **The Commission agreed the exempt minutes of the 224th Commission meeting held on 20 July 2005, subject to one minor amendment, to be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

Item 10 – Matters Arising

Management of Apsley House (minutes 10.2 to 10.7 refer)

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

Relocation developments (minutes 12.3 to 12.5 refer)

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

Item 11 – Committee Minutes

a) EHAC minutes (Open) – 28 July 2005 (CP 2005/64)

11.1 Commission noted and endorsed the minutes of the EHAC meeting held on 28 July 2005.

b) EHAC minutes (**Exempt s.36**) – 28 July 2005 (CP 2005/65/E)

11.2 *This item is potentially exempt under the Freedom of Information Act: Section 36: prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs.*

Everingham Hall, East Yorkshire (EHAC 2005/27/E)

11.3 Commission endorsed the recommendation of EHAC.

11.4 Commission:

a) **noted and endorsed the exempt minutes of the EHAC meeting held on 28 July 2005; and**

b) **agreed that**

i) **Everingham Hall, as a Grade I listed building, is outstanding and therefore qualifies for conditional exemption;**

ii) **the land identified to EHAC, is sufficient to protect the immediate setting of the building;**

iii) **should the application for agricultural relief fail, the whole of the area specified qualifies for conditional exemption as the wider setting of the Hall;**

iv) **the exemption should be subject to the following undertakings:**

- **that public access, without prior appointment, be required on 28 days *per annum* together with the usual arrangements for advertising**
- **that the standard undertakings covering preservation, maintenance and repair should apply**
- **that an updated Heritage Management Plan be prepared for the area within 24 months of the designation following the joint English Heritage/Countryside Agency guidelines and that it should be updated every 5 years.**

- c) LAC minutes (Open) – 29 July 2005 (CP 2005/66)
- 11.5 Commission noted that proposals for Crystal Palace Park and the National Sports Centre there included the possible demolition of a grade II* listed building.
- 11.6 Commission noted and endorsed the minutes of the LAC meeting held on 29 July 2005.**
- d) LAC minutes (**Exempt s.36 and 43**) – 29 July 2005 (CP 2005/67/E)
- 11.7 *This item is potentially exempt under the Freedom of Information Act Section 36: prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs and Section 43: commercial interests.*
- 11.8 Commission noted and endorsed the exempt minutes of the LAC meeting held on 29 July 2005.**

Item 12 – Chairman’s Report (Oral)

- 12.1 The Chairman reported on his engagements since the last meeting. These had included meetings with David Lammy MP, with Baroness Andrews at ODPM and Sir William Proby, Chairman of National Trust. He had also visited the Block Mills at Portsmouth and RAF Bentley Priory, Stanmore, buildings relating to naval and air force history. English Heritage would be working with Defence Estates to ensure the best use of these historic properties.
- 12.2 The process to fill the two current Commissioner vacancies, to provide expertise in archaeology and places of worship issues, was underway and advertisements had been published. The Chairman would be participating in both the short-listing and interviewing of candidates.

Item 13 – Chief Executive’s Report (Oral)

- 13.1 The Chief Executive had reported the issues in his report under matters arising.

Item 14 – EH Financial Overview: August 2005 (CP 2005/68/E)

- 14.1 *This item is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 43: commercial interests.*
- 14.2 Commissioners considered the financial results for the five months up to August 2005.

Item 15 – Proposed changes to management arrangements for the Hadrian’s Wall World Heritage Site (CP 2005/69/E)

- 15.1 *This item is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 36: prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs.*
- 15.2 The Commission considered proposals that English Heritage should support the creation of the New Hadrian’s Wall Company (NewCo) as a vehicle to manage the Hadrian’s Wall World Heritage Site.

Item 16 – Policy & Communications operational overview report (CP2005/70)

- 16.1 Commission noted that the executive summary of Heritage Counts had been circulated at the meeting and Commissioners comments were welcome. The Secretary of State had indicated she would speak at the launch of the publication.
- 16.2 Commissioners noted the Policy & Communications operational overview report.**

Item 17 – Properties & Outreach operational overview report (CP 2005/71/E)

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

Item 18 – Research & Standards operational overview report (CP 2005/72)

- 18.1 Commission noted that a new EH governance structure for research funding was now in place, which would allow socio-economic research to be discussed on equal terms with other research priorities for EH. Information on resources currently allocated to this activity will be provided in the next Operational Overview.
- 18.2 Commission noted the Research & Standards Operational Overview Report.**

Item 19 – Resources operational overview report (CP 2005/73)

- 19.1 Commission noted that the Group had been accredited as Investors in People.
- 19.2 Commission noted the Resources Operational Overview Report.**

Item 20 – Planning & Development operational overview report (CP 2005/74)

20.1 Commission noted the Planning & Development operational overview report.

Item 21 – Any Other Business

21.1 The meeting closed at 12.50

Next meeting

21.2 The next Commission meeting would be held on 7 December 2005 in London.

**David Burgh
Commission Secretariat Manager**

September 2005