



## Commission

### Open minutes of the 251st meeting held at 9:30am on Wednesday 17 December 2008 at the Trafalgar Hotel, London

**Commissioners present:** Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe CBE – Interim Chairman  
Ms Lynda Addison OBE  
Ms Maria Adebawale  
Mrs Joyce Bridges CBE  
Professor David Cannadine  
Mr Manish Chande  
Mrs Gilly Drummond OBE  
Mr Michael Jolly CBE  
Ms Jane Kennedy  
Lord Leicester CBE  
Mr Chris Wilkinson OBE (Items 1-10)  
Ms Elizabeth Williamson

**Staff present:** Dr Simon Thurley – Chief Executive  
Mr David Batchelor – Head of Local Authority Liaison (Item 12)  
Mr Steve Bee – Director of Planning and Development  
Dr Roger Bowdler – Head of Designation (Item 15)  
Ms Vida Cody – Commission Secretariat Manager  
Mr Keith Harrison – Director of Finance and Corporate Services  
Dr Edward Impey – Director of Research and Standards  
Ms Deborah Lamb – Director of Policy and Communications  
Mr Duncan McCallum – Policy Director (Item 13)  
Dr Richard Morrice - Legislation and Policy, HPR team (Item 12)  
Mr Mark Pemberton – Director of Properties and Outreach

**Observers present:** Mrs Deborah Osborne – PA to the Chairman

#### Item 1 – Apologies, Announcements, Declarations of Interest

##### Apologies

1.1 There were no apologies as all Commissioners were present.

## Announcements

- 1.2 Lynda Addison was welcomed as a new Commissioner. Ms Addison introduced herself as a planner by profession who had spent many years in local government, in a variety of authorities in and outside London. She is currently Managing Director of a consultancy business, Addison & Associates, which she established in 1996.
- 1.3 Attention was drawn to a new English Heritage publication: *England Observed* (John Gay: 1909-1999). A new guidebook had also been posted to Commissioners on Portchester Castle.

## Declarations of Interest

- 1.4 Gilly Drummond declared an interest in item 10, paragraph 4.31 (Apsley House) as a friend of the Duke of Wellington.
- 1.5 Jane Kennedy declared an interest in item 10, paragraph 4.37 (Abbey Barns, Thetford) as her practice had been involved in the scheme for re-use and in item 15 (US Embassy) as her practice had worked on the building.
- 1.6 Manish Chande declared an interest in item 15 (US Embassy) as his company, Mountgrange Real Estate Opportunity Fund, had bid for its purchase.

## Item 2 – English Heritage Strategy 2010-2015: Horizon Scanning and EH’s Corporate Aims (CP 2008/114/E)

- 2.1 *This item is included in the exempt minutes of this meeting as it contains information that is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 36: prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs.*

## Item 3 – Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 October 2008 (CP 2008/115/E)

- 3.1 The exempt minutes of the 249<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 28 October 2008 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## Item 4 – Notes from the joint EH/CABE Commission Meeting held on 29 October 2008 (CP 2008/116)

- 4.1 The notes from the joint EH/CABE Commission meeting held on 29 October 2008 were agreed as a correct record. As the meeting had no formal status, the notes did not need to be signed by the Chairman.

**Item 5 – Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 November 2008 (CP 2008/117)**

- 5.1 The open minutes of the 250<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 11 November 2008 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**Item 6 – Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 November 2008 (CP 2008/118/E)**

- 6.1 The exempt minutes of the 250<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 11 November 2008 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**Item 7 – Matters Arising**

**Notes from the joint EH/CABE Commission meeting**

- 7.1 The Urban Panel had held its Annual General Meeting at CABE on 11 December where the programme for the following year had been discussed. Two visits had been agreed for 2009: Luton and Medina Valley on the Isle of Wight. Two further visits were being planned. Consideration had been given to raising the profile of the Urban Panel's work and how its activities are presented on the web and in hard print.

**Item 8 – Committee Minutes**

- a) English Heritage Advisory Committee (Open) – 26 November 2008 (CP 2008/119)
- 8.1 Commission noted and endorsed the open minutes of the English Heritage Advisory Committee held on 26 November 2008.
- b) English Heritage Advisory Committee (Exempt) – 26 November 2008 (CP 2008/120/E)
- 8.2 Commission was informed that the local authority had approved the planning application for a casino on the seafront at Great Yarmouth. It had, however, been referred to the government office, giving time for EH to request modifications to the proposals.
- 8.3 Commission noted and endorsed the exempt minutes of the English Heritage Advisory Committee held on 26 November 2008.

**Item 9 – Chairman's Report (Oral)**

- 9.1 Chairman had met the Conservative MP for Salisbury, Robert Key, who had showed good support for the work of EH, especially over Stonehenge.

- 9.2 Chairman had taken the Minister of State to Stonehenge. The visit had been positive and the Minister had made it clear that she supported the Fargo Plantation area as the best option for the Visitor Centre.
- 9.3 Chairman had also visited the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum and the Devizes Museum, the staff of which were keen to be involved in any facilities for schools being developed.
- 9.4 Chairman had taken tea with the Dean of Salisbury Cathedral. Relations were reported to be more favourable than in the past.
- 9.5 Meetings had also taken place with Jeremy Hunt, MP for South West Surrey and with Ed Vaizey, MP for Wantage and Didcot. Both had expressed an interest in the work of EH. Consideration was being given to a possible dinner between Ed Vaizey and Commissioners at the Jewel House once the new Chairman had been appointed.
- 9.6 Chairman had also been to a seminar on the National Mapping Programme (NMP). Commissioners would be given a presentation on the NMP during their visit to Swindon in January.

#### **Item 10 – Chief Executive’s Report**

##### **Open Report (CP 2008/121)**

- 10.1 In addition to the new Blue Plaques mentioned in the open report, Commission was informed that a Blue Plaque was being unveiled the following day by Lord Attenborough to the British actress, Dame Celia Johnson. (Office note: Lord Attenborough was on the day unwell and unable to attend. The Plaque was instead unveiled by the actor Sir Tom Courtenay.)
- 10.2 Thanks were expressed to Lord Leicester, Sir Hayden Phillips and Mark Pemberton for their negotiations with Lord Douro over the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Terms of Reference for the Apsley House Committee and compromise over the £900k subsidy. The EH Chairman signed the MOU at the Commission meeting and it would be signed by the Duke of Wellington at the weekend.
- 10.3 Concerns were raised over the possible use of Hadleigh Castle in Essex for the Olympic mountain biking event, the legacy it might leave and the precedent it might set.
- 10.4 Concerns were also raised over the National Audit Office’s forthcoming value for money review of EH. Commissioners agreed that partners in the sector should be encouraged to express their support of EH and that it would be helpful for EH staff to hold exclusive interviews with newspapers and magazines to raise its own profile.
- 10.5 It was noted that EH’s pay remit was still awaiting formal clearance from the DCMS and the Treasury.

- 10.6 The advertisement for the post of EH Chairman had been published and was on the websites of the DCMS, Cabinet Office, Heritage Link and English Heritage. It had been agreed that Liz Forgan, former Chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund and the new Chair of Arts Council England, would be the external member of the appointments panel.
- 10.7 The annual pay advice note for Commissioners' remuneration had authorised an increase of 3% with effect from 1 April 2008. Following discussion of the increase and in view of the wider constraints on staff pay, Commissioners agreed to reduce their pay increase to 2%.

Exempt Report (CP 2008/122/E)

- 10.8 *This item is included in the exempt minutes of this meeting as it contains information that is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 36: prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs.*

Item 11 – Corporate Targets: Mid Year Performance Highlights (CP 2008/123)

- 11.1 Commission agreed that it was useful to have a review of progress against all corporate targets and the list of highlights that had been presented to them.

Item 12 – Resources to Deliver Heritage Protection Reform (CP 2008/124/E)

- 12.1 *This item is included in the exempt minutes of this meeting as it contains information that is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 36: prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs.*

Item 13 – New PPS on the Historic Environment (CP 2008/125/E)

- 13.1 *This item is included in the exempt minutes of this meeting as it contains information that is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 22: future publication.*

Item 14 – Stonehenge Environmental Improvements Project (CP 2008/126/E)

- 14.1 *This item is included in the exempt minutes of this meeting as it contains information that is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 43: commercial interests.*

**Item 15 – US Embassy, Grosvenor Square (CP 2008/127/E)**

- 15.1 *This item is included in the exempt minutes of this meeting as it contains information that is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 36: prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs.*

**Item 16 – 2009/10 Budget: Emerging Issues (CP 2008/128/E)**

- 16.1 *This item is included in the exempt minutes of this meeting as it contains information that is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 43: commercial interests.*

**Item 17 – Financial Overview (CP 2008/129/E)**

- 17.1 *This item is included in the exempt minutes of this meeting as it contains information that is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 43: commercial interests.*

**Item 18 - Any Other Business**

**Notice of conferences and events**

- 18.1 Commission asked for better and more advanced notice of EH conferences and events. It was acknowledged that the corporate calendar was regularly sent to them but this was sometimes buried under other papers being sent at the same time. It was agreed that independent flyers could be sent out when produced.

**Date of next meeting**

- 18.2 The next meeting would be held in Swindon on 27-28 January 2009.

Vida Cody  
Commission Secretariat Manager  
December 2008