



Commission

Open minutes of the 244th meeting held at 12:30pm on Tuesday 22 January 2008 at Dover Castle

Commissioners present: Lord Bruce-Lockhart – Chairman
Mrs Joyce Bridges CBE
Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe CBE
Mrs Gilly Drummond
Dr Jane Grenville
Mr Michael Jolly CBE
Ms Jane Kennedy
Lord Leicester CBE
Mr Les Sparks OBE

Staff present: Dr Simon Thurley – Chief Executive
Mr Steve Bee – Director of Planning and Development
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 Mark Pemberton – Director of Properties and Outreach
Ms Vida Cody – Commission Secretariat Manager

Observers present: Ms Susie Berns – Commission Secretariat Office Manager
Ms Deborah Osborne – PA to the Chairman

Item 1 – Apologies, Announcements, Declarations of Interest

Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Ms Maria Adebawale, Professor David Cannadine, Mr Manish Chande, Mr Chris Wilkinson and Ms Elizabeth Williamson.

Announcements

- 1.2 Gilly Drummond and Michael Cairns (former Commissioner) were congratulated on being awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours.

- 1.3 Keith Harrison was welcomed to his first Commission meeting.
- 1.4 Susie Berns and Deborah Osborne were welcomed as observers.

Declarations of Interest

- 1.5 Les Sparks declared an interest in item 8 (JW Evans, Birmingham) as Trustee of the Birmingham Conservation Trust.
- 1.6 Jane Kennedy declared an interest in item 8 (JW Evans, Birmingham) as the architect who had worked on the JW Evans building for the Birmingham Trust had since merged with Purcell Miller Tritton; and in item 11 (Apsley House) as Ms Kennedy's business partner had worked on the report for Francis Plowden.
- 1.7 Gilly Drummond and Lord Leicester declared an interest in item 11 (Apsley House) as friends of the Duke of Wellington.

Item 2 – Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 December 2007 (CP 2008/1)

- 2.1 The open minutes of the 243rd meeting held on 5 December 2007 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

Item 3 – Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 December 2007 (CP 2008/2/E)

- 3.1 The exempt minutes of the 243rd meeting held on 5 December 2007 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

Item 4 – Matters Arising

- 4.1 It was agreed that a visit to Apethorpe Hall be arranged for Wednesday 27 February.

Item 5 – Committee Minutes

- a) London Advisory Committee (Open) – 30 November 2007 (CP 2008/3)
 - 5.1 English Heritage had presented its evidence at the Smithfield Public Inquiry which had been due to finish in the next few days. However, the acquisition by the developer of the car park underneath the market had been unexpectedly disclosed, resulting in possible delays and the possible re-opening of the Inquiry.
 - 5.2 Commission noted and endorsed the open minutes of LAC held on 30 November 2007.

- b) London Advisory Committee (Exempt) – 30 November 2007 (CP 2008/4/E)
- 5.3 The starred item in the exempt minutes appeared as a later agenda item (Victoria Transport Interchange) and was discussed at that stage.
- 5.4 **Commission noted and endorsed the exempt minutes of LAC held on 30 November 2007.**

Item 6 – Chairman’s Report (Oral)

- 6.1 The Chairman had been to a number of meetings relating to items on the agenda including Stonehenge and Apsley House. He had also met the Secretary of State to discuss the Dover project, HPR and end of year flexibility issues. The difficulty in managing long term projects given the constraints on year end flexibility was noted.

Item 7 – Chief Executive’s Report (Oral)

- 7.1 *This item is also 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.*
- 7.2 It was reported that there was likely to be an underspend of around £600k in this year’s budget following rates rebates at much higher levels than expected. This could go towards purchasing the JW Evans workshop and Wigmore Castle. A business case for the latter was already with the DCMS and it was hoped to be able to make an offer shortly.
- 7.3 Discussions had taken place with the Chairman and with some Commissioners about the future of the Estates Department. As a result, it had been agreed to merge the department with the Conservation Department in the Research and Standards Group. Staff had welcomed the move. A paper would be brought to the next Commission meeting explaining how it would work and how the new arrangements would be monitored.

ACTION: *Edward Impey*

Item 8 – JW Evans, Birmingham (CP 2008/5/E)

- 8.1 *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 9 – Draft EH Business Plan (CP 2008/6/E)

- 9.1 *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 conduct of public affairs.*

Item 10 – Victoria Transport Interchange (CP 2008/7/E)

- 10.1 *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 conduct of public affairs.*

Item 11 – Apsley House (CP 2008/8/E)

- 11.1 *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 12 – Stonehenge Visitor Centre and Access Scheme (CP 2008/9/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 43: commercial interests.*

Item 13 – Operational Overview Reports

a) Policy and Communications (CP 2008/10)

- 13.1 **Commission noted the Policy and Communications Operational Overview Report.**

b) Properties and Outreach (CP 2008/11/E)

- 13.2 Staff remained optimistic about securing funds from the Seaside Regeneration Fund for the Dover project.

- 13.3 **Commission noted the Properties and Outreach Operational Overview Report.**

c) Research and Standards (CP 2008/12)

- 13.4 **Commission noted the Research and Standards Operational Overview Report and congratulated staff on the publication list.**

d) Planning and Development (CP 2008/13/E)

13.5 *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 40: personal information and Section 43: commercial interests.*

Item 14 – Financial Overview (CP 2008/14/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 - Any Other Business

Crossrail

15.1 One Commissioner asked what considerations had been given to the impact of Crossrail on the heritage of London. It was reported that the London Advisory Committee (LAC) had discussed this before and that two of its members were design advisers to Crossrail. LAC had also been working closely with CABE in this respect.

Date of Next Meeting

15.2 The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 2 April 2008 in the West Midlands.

Vida Cody
Commission Secretariat Manager
January 2008