



Commission

Open minutes of the 246th meeting held at 2pm on Wednesday 25 June 2008 at Chandos House, London, WI

Commissioners present: Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe CBE – Acting Chairman
Mrs Joyce Bridges CBE
Professor David Cannadine
Mr Manish Chande
Mrs Gilly Drummond OBE
Ms Jane Kennedy
Lord Leicester CBE
Mr Chris Wilkinson OBE
Ms Elizabeth Williamson

Staff present: Dr Simon Thurley – Chief Executive
Mr Peter Beacham OBE – Heritage protection Director (Item 14)
Mr Steve Bee – Director of Planning and Development
Ms Sarah Buckingham – Head of HPR Implementation (Item 14)
Ms Vida Cody – Commission Secretariat Manager
Mr Mike Harlow – Legal Director (Item 14)
Mr Keith Harrison – Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Ms Deborah Lamb – Director of Policy and Communications
Mr Mark Pemberton – Director of Properties and Outreach

Observers present: Ms Linda Alley – Commission Secretariat Team Assistant
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 Lord Bruce-Lockhart (Chairman), Ms Maria Adebawale and Mr Michael Jolly.
- 1.2 Staff apologies were also received from Dr Edward Impey.

Announcements

- 1.3 The Chief Executive, as Presiding Officer, asked Commissioners to elect one of their number to chair the meeting in the absence of the Chairman. Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe was nominated and seconded.
- 1.4 Commissioners were informed that the short listing had taken place for the Commission vacancy and that interviews would be in July. It was hoped that the new Commissioner would be able to attend the Commission meeting in September.

Declarations of Interest

- 1.5 Gilly Drummond declared an interest in item 5 (f) and 5 (l) (LAC open minutes) as a Trustee of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich and in item 13 (b) (Apsley House) as a friend of the Duke of Wellington. Mrs Drummond was allowed to remain in the room for the discussion.

Item 2 – Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 April 2008 (CP 2008/40)

- 2.1 The open minutes of the 245th meeting held on 2 April 2008 were agreed as a correct record to be signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments being made:
 - i) The word “note” in paragraph 7.3 being changed to “written representation.”
 - ii) The word “new” being inserted before “planning powers” in paragraph 7.3.

Item 3 – Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 April 2008 (CP 2008/41/E)

- 3.1 The exempt minutes of the 245th meeting held on 2 April 2008 were agreed as a correct record to be signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments being made:
 - i) The following wording at the end of paragraph 17.6 to be deleted: “and that this was not the issue.”
 - ii) The word “arranged” in the last line of paragraph 17.7 to be replaced with “considered”.

Item 4 – Matters Arising

- 4.1 There were no matters arising.

Item 5 – Committee Minutes

- a) London Advisory Committee (Open) – 14 March 2008 (CP 2008/42)
- 5.1 Commission noted and endorsed the open minutes of LAC held on 14 March 2008.**
- b) London Advisory Committee (Exempt) – 14 March 2008 (CP 2008/43/E)
- 5.2 Commission noted and endorsed the exempt minutes of LAC held on 14 March 2008.**
- c) Remuneration/HR Committee (Exempt) – 2 April 2008 (CP 2008/44/E)
- 5.3 Commission noted and endorsed the exempt minutes of the Remuneration/HR Committee held on 2 April 2008.**
- d) English Heritage Advisory Committee (Open) – 16 April 2008 (CP 2008/45)
- 5.4** It was noted that local residents were unhappy that EH had acquiesced over the piercing of the plinth on the principal elevation of the Dyson School of Design Innovation.
- 5.5 Commission noted and endorsed the open minutes of the English Heritage Advisory Committee held on 16 April 2008.**
- e) English Heritage Advisory Committee (Exempt) – 16 April 2008 (CP 2008/46/E)
- 5.6** It was noted that EH’s advice on the Birmingham Central Library had gone to the Minister but that no decision had yet been made on its listing.
- 5.7 Commission noted and endorsed the exempt minutes of the English Heritage Advisory Committee held on 16 April 2008.**
- f) London Advisory Committee (Open) – 25 April 2008 (CP 2008/47)
- 5.8** It was noted that LAC members had not been enthusiastic about the concept drawings for the proposed extension to the National Maritime Museum on the south side between the museum and Greenwich Park but that good progress had since been made.
- 5.9 Commission noted and endorsed the open minutes of LAC held on 25 April 2008.**
- g) London Advisory Committee (Exempt) – 25 April 2008 (CP 2008/48/E)
- 5.10 Commission noted and endorsed the exempt minutes of LAC held on 25 April 2008.**

- h) Business and Finance Committees (Open) – 21 May 2008 (CP 2008/49)
- 5.11 Commission noted and endorsed the open minutes of the Business and Finance Committees held on 21 May 2008.**
- i) Business and Finance Committees (Exempt) – 21 May 2008 (CP 2008/50/E)
- 5.12 Staff reported that, for the financial year ending 31 March 2008, EH had a surplus of £3.8m on the Income and Expenditure Account and that this had been difficult to reduce due to the lateness of several substantial rate rebates.
- 5.13 Commission noted and endorsed the exempt minutes of the Business and Finance Committees held on 21 May 2008.**
- j) English Heritage Advisory Committee (Open) – 28 May 2008 (CP 2008/51)
- 5.14 Commission noted and endorsed the open minutes of the English Heritage Advisory Committee held on 28 May 2008.**
- k) English Heritage Advisory Committee (Exempt) – 28 May 2008 (CP 2008/52/E)
- 5.15 Commission noted and endorsed the exempt minutes of the English Heritage Advisory Committee held on 28 May 2008.**
- l) London Advisory Committee (Open) – 6 June 2008 (CP 2008/53)
- 5.16 LAC members were looking forward to a substantive meeting with the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG) to discuss the proposed equestrian events at Greenwich Park. Concerns were expressed that many of the park's trees would be taken down to accommodate the events. The Chair of the Historic Parks and Gardens Panel (HPGP) requested that members be kept up to date with developments.

ACTION: *Kathryn Lanning/Sarah Baylis*

- 5.17 Commission noted and endorsed the open minutes of the London Advisory Committee held on 6 June 2008.**
- m) London Advisory Committee (Exempt) – 6 June 2008 (CP 2008/54/E)
- 5.18 Commission noted and endorsed the exempt minutes of the London Advisory Committee held on 6 June 2008.**

Item 6 – Chairman's Report (Oral)

- 6.1 There was no Chairman's report as the Chairman had sent his apologies for the meeting.

Item 7 – Chief Executive’s Report (Oral)

- 7.1 The decision on Robin Hood Gardens rested with the Minister and an announcement was expected soon.
- 7.2 EHAC would receive a paper on the possible listing of the US Embassy at its September meeting. A site visit comprising EHAC members and Commissioners was being arranged for 7 August. (Secretariat note: the visit was later postponed to 25 September to ensure the availability of the Ambassador. The paper would go to the October EHAC meeting.)

ACTION: *Vida Cody*

- 7.3 A series of political lunches had been attended. The Chief Executive and the Director of Policy and Communications had met the Liberal Democrat front bench on behalf of the Chairman. The Chief Executive had attended the public accounts committee in relation to the National Audit Office report on the EH/HLF grant scheme for churches. The Chief Executive had also been to the All Parliamentary Committee on World Heritage Sites and on a visit for Parliamentarians to a number of London churches to keep the *Inspired!* campaign going. He had also chaired the annual European Heritage Heads Forum before handing over the chairmanship to the Dutch.
- 7.4 Two staff members had been recognised in the Queen’s Birthday Honours: the Heritage Protection Director had received an OBE and the caretaker at Apethorpe Hall had been awarded a MBE.

Item 8 – Apethorpe Hall (CP 2008/55)

- 8.1 English Heritage had purchased Apethorpe Hall in September 2004, following which the Phase I programme of rescue works had been successfully completed as planned. Marketing of the property had begun and around 120 sales brochures had been published. Commissioners were shown copies.
- 8.2 Given the current state of the market, the risk of there being no purchaser had increased. However, EH hoped to secure interest from 3-4 possible purchasers, a report on whom would go to the Chief Executive and two Commissioners following discussions between EH staff and the agents, Smiths Gore. A progress report would be presented at the September Commission meeting.

ACTION: *Nick Hill/David Tomback*

Item 9 – Stonehenge Environmental Improvements Project – Status Report (CP 2008/56/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 43: commercial interests.*

Item 10 – Key Performance Indicators and Critical Projects (CP 2008/57)

- 10.1 The first annual report against EH’s corporate KPIs and Critical Projects was presented to Commission for comment. It would be an annual report as the data only changed meaningfully in that time frame.
- 10.2 Commission noted the report and agreed on its clear presentation and usefulness.

Item 11 – Development Department Performance 2005/06 – 2007/08 (CP 2008/58/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 – Financial Overview (CP 2008/59/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 2008/60)

- 13.1 Corporate activities were becoming the main focus for the Group with particular emphasis on Heritage at Risk and the implementation of the Heritage Protection Reform. There was a move towards more direct communication, for example the creation of a dedicated web page for explaining EH advice on the Robin Hood Gardens Estate.
- 13.2 Efforts were being made to persuade CLG of the need for a new Planning Policy Statement to replace Planning Policy Guidance 15 and 16. Joyce Bridges offered her help.
- 13.3 Commission noted the Policy and Communications Operational Overview Report.

b) Properties and Outreach (CP 2008/61/E)

- 13.4 *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.*

c) Research and Standards (CP 2008/62)

- 13.11 Commission noted the Research and Standards Operational Overview Report.

d) Planning and Development (CP 2008/63/E)

13.12 *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, Section 40: personal data and Section 43: commercial interests.*

e) Finance and Corporate Services (CP 2008/64)

13.15 A review of the structure of the Finance function had been initiated in 2007 and was in the staff consultation phase. The new central Finance Department would relocate to Swindon. The EH Bunhill Row office had been vacated with staff either moving to Swindon or opting to become home workers.

13.16 Commission noted the Finance and Corporate Services Operational Overview Report.

Item 14 – Heritage Protection (CP 2008/65/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 22: future publication.*

Item 15 – Commission Dates 2009 (CP 2008/66)

15.1 Commission noted meeting dates for 2009.

Item 16 - Any Other Business

Date of Next Meetings

16.1 The next meeting would be held on 30 June in London to approve the annual report and accounts. The meeting after that would be on 23-24 September in Sheffield.

Vida Cody
Commission Secretariat Manager
July 2008