



## Commission

### Open minutes of the 248<sup>th</sup> meeting held at 1pm on Tuesday 23 September 2008 at the Leopold Hotel, Sheffield

**Commissioners present:** Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe CBE – Interim Chairman  
Mrs Joyce Bridges CBE  
Mr Manish Chande  
Mrs Gilly Drummond OBE  
Mr Michael Jolly CBE  
Ms Jane Kennedy  
Lord Leicester CBE

**Staff present:** Dr Simon Thurley – Chief Executive  
Mr Steve Bee – Director of Planning and Development  
Ms Vida Cody – Commission Secretariat Manager  
Mr Mike Harlow – Legal Director (Items 8 and 9)  
Mr Keith Harrison – Director of Finance and Corporate Services  
Dr Edward Impey – Director of Research and Standards (Items 6-15)  
Ms Deborah Lamb – Director of Policy and Communications  
Mr Mark Pemberton – Director of Properties and Outreach

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

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

##### Apologies

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

##### Announcements

- 1.2 Commissioners were asked to remain in silence for a few moments to reflect upon the achievements of the late Chairman, Lord Bruce-Lockhart.

- I.3 Commissioners were aware that Barry Cunliffe had been appointed Interim Chairman and that it was anticipated that a new Chairman would be in place by Easter 2009.
- I.4 Confirmation was awaited of the new Commissioner for whom interviews had taken place over the summer.
- I.5 Attention was drawn to a number of new English Heritage publications.
- I.6 The list of regional visits for 2009 was tabled. Those for the second half of the year would be confirmed once the new Chairman was in place.

#### Declarations of Interest

- I.7 Gilly Drummond declared an interest in item three (Apsley House) as a friend of the Duke of Wellington.
- I.8 Jane Kennedy declared an interest in item 6 (d) (National Maritime Museum) as one of the partners in her practice was advising the Museum Trustees and in item 6 (f) (Knole) as her practice was working for both the family and the National Trust.

#### Item 2 – Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 June 2008 (CP 2008/70)

- 2.1 The open minutes of the 246th meeting held on 25 June 2008 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### Item 3 – Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 June 2008 (CP 2008/71/E)

- 3.1 The exempt minutes of the 246th meeting held on 25 June 2008 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### Item 4 – Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 June 2008 (CP 2008/72/E)

- 4.1 The exempt minutes of the 247th meeting held on 30 June 2008 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### Item 5 – Matters Arising

##### Exempt minutes of the 247<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting held on 30 June 2008

- 5.1 Commission agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 30 June could be made open.

Apsley House (Item 13 (b) of the exempt minutes of 25 June, paragraphs 13.5 – 13.10)

5.2 *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 6 – Committee Minutes**

a) English Heritage Advisory Committee (Open) – 2 July 2008 (CP 2008/73)

**6.1 Commission noted and endorsed the open minutes of the English Heritage Advisory Committee held on 2 July 2008.**

b) English Heritage Advisory Committee (Exempt) – 2 July 2008 (CP 2008/74/E)

6.2 A Public Inquiry was due to open on the Upper Heyford Air Base on 29 September.

**6.3 Commission noted and endorsed the exempt minutes of the English Heritage Advisory Committee held on 2 July 2008.**

c) London Advisory Committee (Open) – 18 July 2008 (CP 2008/75)

**6.4 Commission noted and endorsed the open minutes of the London Advisory Committee held on 18 July 2008.**

d) London Advisory Committee (Exempt) – 18 July 2008 (CP 2008/76/E) and 12 September 2008 (oral)

6.5 *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 36: prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs.*

e) English Heritage Advisory Committee (Open) – 3 September 2008 (CP 2008/77)

**6.13 Commission noted and endorsed the open minutes of the English Heritage Advisory Committee held on 3 September 2008.**

f) English Heritage Advisory Committee (Exempt) – 3 September 2008 (CP 2008/78/E)

**6.14 Commission noted and endorsed the exempt minutes of the English Heritage Advisory Committee held on 3 September 2008.**

## **Item 7 – Chief Executive’s Report (Oral)**

### **Open Report (CP 2008/79)**

- 7.1 Commission was informed about the World Heritage Committee/ICOMOS Mission to Bath, likely to take place in November 2008. It was agreed to bring an update to Commission on World Heritage Sites and ICOMOS.

**ACTION:** *Christopher Young*

- 7.2 It was agreed to include the Mechanics Institute in the Commission visit to Swindon in January 2009.

**ACTION:** *Vida Cody*

- 7.3 The Chief Executive would be reviewing the offers made for Apethorpe Hall with the Development Economics Director and the Project Director for Apethorpe. Applicants would in due course meet both Directors and, depending on the outcome, would then meet the Chief Executive and two Commissioners (Manish Chande and Jane Kennedy) before any decisions were made.

- 7.4 Various options lay ahead if the existing proposals were unsuccessful:

- Put Apethorpe back on the market
- Drop the idea for a single owner
- Carry out more improvements in the next year and then go back to the market.
- Open up to the public and make the property more appealing if a sale was not imminent.

A further update would be prepared for the November Commission meeting when it was likely that a decision on Apethorpe’s future would have to be made.

**ACTION:** *Chief Executive*

### **Exempt Report (CP 2008/80/E)**

- 7.5 Commission noted the report on Smithfield.

## **Item 8 – Heritage Protection Bill – EH Purposes and Powers (CP 2008/81/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 36: prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs and Section 42: legal professional privilege.*

### **Item 9 – New PPS for the Historic Environment (CP 2008/82)**

- 9.1 Commission was asked to consider EH's overall approach to the new Planning Policy Statement (PPS) following the Government's request for EH to take the lead in producing a new draft. This would be the first of the Government's new Planning Policy Statements with the focus very much on policy. The challenge would be to combine PPG 15 and PPG 16 and achieve a more holistic approach to the historic environment. The timetable was tight, the draft to be ready by the beginning of November, to be published alongside the Bill in December. A more detailed draft would go to EHAC on 22 October and all Commissioners and LAC members would be sent a copy of the EHAC paper.

**ACTION:** *Vida Cody*

- 9.2 There was some discussion on the difference between *special interest* and *significance*. Staff agreed that the language used would need to be considered at a later date.

### **Item 10 – Stonehenge WHS Management Plan (CP 2008/83)**

- 10.1 Commission was asked to consider EH's draft response to the public consultation on the revised Stonehenge World Heritage Site Management Plan. The main changes to the 2000 Management Plan are the removal of the core zone, the recognition of the Stonehenge landscape and the settings of all the key monuments (not just the Stones) and the removal or screening of the A303 as a long term rather than short term aim. EHAC had given its support to the draft response at its meeting on 3 September and had suggested that greater emphasis be given to Stonehenge as a globally important iconic monument.

- 10.2 Commission agreed that the Management Plan is fit for purpose.

### **Item 11 – Stonehenge Environmental Improvements Project Update (CP 2008/84/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 – Heritage Counts 2008 (CP 2008/85)**

- 12.1 *Heritage Counts* is produced annually by English Heritage on behalf of the sector as a whole. An extensive number of comments had been received over the summer from members of the Historic Environment Review Executive Committee (HEREC) and had been incorporated into the report. Commission was invited to approve the main messages from the report and the launch schedule.

- 12.2 There were three main sections to the report: the review, the indicators and the theme (climate change). For the majority of indicators, there had been no significant change although there had been an increase in participation particularly amongst the lower socio-economic groups and those with limiting disability. The main messages concerning climate change were around the re-use of historic places and mitigation. Projects that encouraged behaviour change had been suggested.
- 12.3 The report would be launched at the London Transport Museum on 30 October. It was noted that this was no longer EH's principal annual event. This role was now being performed by Heritage at Risk.
- 12.4 Commission agreed that the review was very useful but that the section on climate change was far too long. However, Commission approved the main messages and the launch schedule.

#### **Item 13 – Funding Agreement 2008/09-2010/11 (CP 2008/86/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 – Financial Overview (CP 2008/87/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**

##### Commission meeting on Stonehenge

- 15.1 Commissioners were reminded of the meeting to be held in Great Yarmouth on 28 October. It was stressed that EH needed as many Commissioners as possible to attend. There would be a presentation/paper and an opportunity for further discussion over the evening meal. No guests would be attending the dinner.

##### Dates of Other Commission Meetings in 2008

- 15.2 Commission meetings for the remainder of the year were confirmed as follows:
- 29 October: Joint meeting with CABE Commissioners in Great Yarmouth
  - 11 November in the East Midlands
  - 17 December in London (no visit but to include Christmas lunch)

Vida Cody  
Commission Secretariat Manager  
October 2008