

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND

MINUTES OF MEETING 23 SEPTEMBER 2005

MENZIES BELFORD HOTEL, EDINBURGH

Present: Liz Burns (Chair)
Neil Galbraith
Martin Hulse
Ian Johnson
Finlay Lockie
Eleanor McAllister
Charles McKean
Clare Meredith
Ross Noble
Andrew Wright
Malcolm Bangor-Jones (Secretary)

In attendance: Sheenagh Adams, Director of Heritage Policy, Historic Scotland
Susan Williamson, Head of Heritage Policy, Historic Scotland

Introductory remarks

1. Apologies were received from Peter Burman and Mark Hopton.
2. Council noted the need for important papers to be circulated to Members timeously.

Minutes of the meeting of 18 June 2005

3. The minutes of the meeting were approved.

Notes of meeting of Working Group Chairs

4. Council noted the record of the meeting. The possibility of an additional Council meeting in May 2006 was noted: 17 May was identified as a potential date.

Matters arising

HEACS Budget

HEACS(05)22

5. Council noted the budget paper. Expenditure on the Study Tour and advertising for the Conference had been higher than anticipated. It was recognised that the Review meeting in November would also need to be budgeted for. Hospitality at Council meetings was raised and it was agreed that the matter might be discussed at the Review meeting.

Meeting with the Minister

HEACS(05)23

6. Council noted the report of the meeting with Patricia Ferguson, the Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport. It had been a positive meeting.

Seminar held at Holyrood House on 22 June 2005

HEACS(05)24

7. Council noted the report of the seminar.

Draft Report on Properties in Care

HEACS(05)25

Notes of PIC Working Group Meeting

HEACS(05)26

8. Council gave careful consideration to the draft report on the criteria for taking Properties into Care. The Working Group would provide a further draft for consideration at the Council meeting in December.

Draft Report on Materials and Skills

HEACS(05)27

9. Council gave careful consideration to the draft report on the availability of traditional materials and skills. The Working Group would provide a further draft for consideration at the Council meeting in December.

Annual Report 2004-05

10. Council thanked those who had contributed to the production of the Annual Report.

Review of HEACS and Agenda Building

11. Council noted that the Chair's Group had considered the format of the Review Meeting to be held on Monday 21 November in Glasgow. The meeting could be similar in format to the meeting held at St Andrews, with an initial blue skies session. The paper prepared by Neil Galbraith for the previous Chair's Group meeting and the paper prepared by the Communications Group for the previous Council meeting would be circulated with the other papers for the meeting. Members were invited to submit papers.

Conference and Public Meeting

12. Council thanked those involved with the conference and public meeting. It was noted that informal feedback had been positive. Council reviewed the arrangements.

Working Group reports

Legislation Working Group

HEACS(05)28

13. Council noted the reports of the meetings of the Group. It was noted that the Legislation and Local Authorities Working Groups intended to hold a joint meeting in November.

14. Historic Scotland reported on new arrangements for ecclesiastical exemption: Scottish Ministers had decided that a new voluntary scheme would be established from 1 January 2006 and would continue until further notice.

Audit Working Group

15. The Historic Environment audit was covered under the information exchange with Historic Scotland.

Local Authorities Working Group

HEACS(05)29

16. Council noted the report of the meeting of the Group. Particular notice was taken of the accompanying paper prepared by Stuart Eydmann and Carol Swanson on Local Authority Involvement in the Historic Environment. The possibility of the Working Group being constituted as a Standing Committee was suggested. The question of external membership was posed. The Working Group was invited to consider the suggestion.

Infrastructure Working Group

HEACS(05)30

17. Council noted the report of the meeting of the Group. It was reported that discussions had been held with Historic Scotland about funding the proposed research project. It had been proposed that HEACS might contribute £5,000 towards the estimated project costs of £25,000. Council noted it had been agreed at its previous meeting to keep the sum of £2,500 in view for commissioning a scoping study for the Economic Significance Working Group. Council agreed that £5,000 might be set aside for the Infrastructure Working Group.

Economic Significance Working Group

HEACS(05)31

18. Council noted the report of the meeting of the Group. The Working Group had finished taking evidence and intended to submit a project brief to Council.

Funding Working Group

19. Council noted that consideration was still being given to the constitution of the Working Group and to possible external members.

Committee reports

Chair's Group

HEACS(05)32

20. Council noted the record of the meeting of the Chair's Group.

Communications Group

21. Council considered the position of the Communications Group. It was recognised that the Group had not been established as a formal Group. Council noted that, in the meantime, Eleanor McAllister did not wish to be a member. It was agreed to discuss the issue of communications at the Review Meeting in November.

Council acknowledged the time and effort contributed by those members who had assisted with this area of Council's work.

Consultation papers

White Paper on the Planning System

HEACS(05)33

22. Council noted its response to the Scottish Executive White Paper on the Planning System. Council thanked Andrew Wright and Ian Johnson.

Cultural Commission Report

HEACS(05)34

23. Council noted its briefing paper on the Cultural Commission Report which had been submitted to the Minister, Patricia Ferguson. It was agreed that, as stated to the Minister, Council should call a meeting of Historic Environment interests to discuss the report, partly as a sounding-out exercise for Council and partly with a view to exploring the possibility of a response from the meeting.

Proposals to set targets for recycled content in public sector procurement

24. Council noted the consultation.

UK ratification of the 1954 Hague Convention on protection of cultural property

25. Council noted the consultation which would be considered.

SPP8 Town Centres and SPP 21 Green Belts Consultations Drafts

26. Council agreed the consultations might receive a standard response.

LINK submission to Sustainable Development Strategy

HEACS(05)35

27. Council agreed that the LINK submission contained several points of interest to its work, particularly the section on the Historic Environment. It was noted that, while the submission included a recommendation to reduce food miles, it did not mention materials miles. The production of a renewable energy planning framework was also raised.

Seas the Opportunity: A Strategy for the Long Term Sustainability of Scotland's Coasts and Seas

28. Council noted that its views had been taken into account.

Meetings with other agencies

RCAHMS

HEACS(05)36

29. Council noted the record of the meeting.

30. Council noted the record of the seminar.

Council Meetings 2006 and Study Tour

31. Council agreed that the dates for its meetings in 2006 would be as follows:

17 March	Dumfries & Galloway
8 to 10 June	Study Tour to Western Isles
15 September	Falkirk
15 December	Paisley and Renfrew

32. Council agreed the suggested arrangements for the Study Tour. Council agreed the general aims for study tours. Commentary could also be provided by Members. Council noted the record of the discussion of the Argyll Study Tour.

Information exchange with Historic Scotland

33. It was reported that Karen Robertson had been appointed as Project Manager for the Heritage Audit. The Minister had written to a range of organisations inviting them to be represented on the Stakeholders Advisory Group (HEACS had already been invited). Council agreed that Neil Galbraith should represent Council on the Group.

34. It was reported that David Leven had left Historic Scotland for a post with Scottish Enterprise. Liz Davidson, Director of the Merchant City THI in Glasgow, had been appointed on a part-time basis as Project Manager for the Historic Environment Regeneration Fund. Attention was drawn to several forthcoming dates, including the Historic Scotland/Historic Houses Association conference on 25 November.

35. In August the Minister, Patricia Ferguson, had unveiled a marker stone on St Kilda to commemorate its designation as a World Heritage Site for its cultural as well as its natural significance. Progress was being made with the drafting of a consultation paper for the Historic Scotland review of voluntary sector funding. It was unlikely that there would be a Spending Review in 2006. Council noted an information paper which was tabled setting out the results of the first 43 applications for Historic Environment Grants received by the closing date of 31 May 2005. It was noted that while demand for grant considerably outweighed the available budget, the scheme was designed to prioritise applications.

A O B

36. There was no other business.

Date of next meeting

37. The next meeting would take place on 16 December at the Apex Hotel, Dundee.

HEACS

November 2005